

# AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve all Classes interested in Soil Culture

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHFUL, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN—WASHINGTON

ORANGE JUDD, A. M., }  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## May.

"Again the balmy zephyr blows  
Fresh verdure decks the grove,  
Each bird with vernal rapture glows,  
And tunes his notes to love.

Ye gentle warblers hither fly,  
And shun the noontide heat;  
My shrubs a cooling shade supply,  
My groves a safe retreat."

GRAVES.

The wind blows from the sweet south, and the time of the singing of birds has come. The blue bird announced the coming Spring some weeks ago, and has already made provision for his Summer house. You hear his song every pleasant morning in the same apple tree, and see him peering hopefully into the hole in the decaying trunk. His love is there, busy with her maternal cares. The robin red breast sings his song at the early dawn, inviting you forth to look upon the wondrous beauty of the purpling heavens, and to snuff the fragrance of the dewy morning. He is repairing the old nest at the corner of the fence, and expects a good time coming. The oriole is spinning his flaxen home from the fragile limb of the lofty elm, and there the expanding leaves will soon shield him and his rising family from observation. The swallows have come and taken possession of the eaves of the barn, and the pheebe is building her nest under the shed. The crow-bill follows the plow boy a field, picking grubs from his furrow, and the red wings are making the thickets alive with their tumultuous joys. Already the brown thrasher is perched upon the fence by the wood side, inviting the farmer to "plant it, plant it," and assuring him with what exstic delight she will "pull it up, pull it up." The chee-wit and cat-bird are dodging about the underbrush, and the chick-a-dee-dee, and the wood-peckers are rattling their bills against the dry wormy limbs, in search of their breakfast.

Bang! Bang! There goes poor red breast a fluttering heap of agony rolling upon the grass, the prey of an idle vagabond, who has nothing else to do but to kill these friends and companions of the husbandman, and thus to spoil more happiness than he will ever cause, if he lives to the age of Methuselah. Look at the quivering breasts and the ruffled feathers and see the lids closing over that glazing eye, shutting out the sight of the beautiful world forever! No wonder the poor children cry, and run to their mother at the loss of their favorite songster! They will hear his evening song no more by the garden wall.

It is a fitting time, on this bright May morning to speak a good word for birds, and if we were a poet, like Col. Morris, we would write a song on "Sportsman spare that bird," and have it set to music, and scattered broad cast over the land, so that in all the homes where music is cultivated, the sentiment of affection for birds should be inculcated, and children should grow up regarding them as sacred among God's sweetest gifts to man. Those who court the companionship of man are beautiful; they enliven and cheer his labors by their songs, and protect his crops against their worst enemies. They are the barrier, which the benevolent Creator has set against the inordinate multiplication of the insect tribes, and they can not be hunted, and driven away from our cultivated fields, without destroying the harmony of God's providential arrangements. No principle in the economy of cultivating the earth is better established than this. Birds are a protection to our grain fields, our gardens, and orchards; saving by their labors a hundred fold more than they destroy. In the newly settled States, where the balance of Nature has not been



destroyed, where the forest affords protection to the birds, and idle vagabonds with dog and gun are few, they have the finest fruits. The insects multiply as the birds decrease, and they spread blight over our grain fields, and orchards.

We, who have our hands upon the plow, can not all write songs or educate the young to right views of the value of birds, but we can all do something to remedy this evil. We can at least educate ourselves and families, to respect the rights of birds, and our own interests. Observe the blackbirds, the robins, and other birds as they follow our footsteps in the furrow. What a multitude of grubs and worms and eggs of insects,

they devour! Watch any pair as they feed their young in the nest. Almost their only food is insects, moths, millers, caterpillars. Every tiny nest about the garden is the sepulcher of myriads of these enemies of our fruits and vegetables.

If we can convince ourselves, that the birds are the best friends of our crops, we shall cease to kill them, or suffer them to be killed. The bird hunter will be regarded as the enemy of the husbandman, and will stand in peril of a warm jacket, when he prowls around our premises, dispensing lead and salt petre. The birds soon learn to prize their friends, and will come and build their nests where they are not disturbed. Let us invite them to our farms and gardens, and assure them of our protection.

"No schoolboy rude, to mischief prone,  
E'er shows his ruddy face;  
Or twangs his bow, or hurls a stone,  
In this sequestered place.

Hither the vocal thrush repairs,  
Secure the linnet sings,  
The goldfinch dreads no fimsy snares,  
To clog her painted wings."

The fruit and ornamental trees, that we need for the shelter of our dwellings and to give us fruit, will afford a delightful refuge for the birds. "The fir trees are their home," and all other trees that make a thick shade. Plant trees then in front of your house, and along the road side as far as your farm extends. Enlarge your fruit yard, if you have only enough trees for the supply of your own family, you want some to give your neighbors, and a full supply for the birds. Do not be stingy in this provision. The laborer is worthy of his hire. Remember that every family of birds you can induce to locate upon your trees, rids you of enemies, and increases your wealth. Land is still cheap upon the farm, and trees are cheap. Plant more trees, and with your other crops, raise your own music. Encourage the boys to build bird boxes, and put them upon the buildings and fences. This will amuse them quite as much as robbing birds' nests, and will foster within them much better sentiments.

We once visited a large rural village in New-England, where they had a fashion of rearing a large bird house on the top of a long pole in the garden. This pole was a conspicuous object, on almost every street. We need not say that they had a vigorous horticultural society there, and that the place was famous for its apples, pears, and plums; its cherries, strawberries, currants, and other small fruits. The birds took care of their insects, and they will take care of yours if you will give them a chance.

In one of the States we have an excellent law, laying a heavy fine upon the sportsman, that kills a bird off of his own premises, so that every proprietor is enabled to protect his own grounds against bird destroyers. Such legislation is demanded in all the older States and it only requires a little exertion on the part of our intelligent farmers to secure it.

## Calendar of Operations for May 1859.

[We note down sundry kinds of work to be done during the month, not so much to afford instruction to practical men, as to call to mind the various operations to be attended to. A glance over a table like this will often suggest some piece of work that might otherwise be forgotten or neglected. Our remarks are more especially adapted to the latitudes of 38° to 45°; but will be equally applicable to points further North and South by making due allowance for each degree of latitude, that is, earlier for the South, later for the North.]

**EXPLANATIONS.**—*f* indicates the first; *m* the middle; and *l* the last of the month.—Doubling the letters thus: *ff*, or *mm*, or *ll*, gives particular emphasis to the period indicated.—Two letters placed together, as *fm* or *ml*, signifies that the work may be done in either or in both periods indicated; thus, work marked *fm*, indicates that it is to be attended to from the first to the middle of the month.]

**Farm.**

From the accounts thus far received from abroad, and our own observations about home, the past Winter appears to have been a favorable one for Winter crops. Grass and grain fields come out bright with very little winter-kill, and the continued damp weather brings them forward sufficiently rapid.

The heavy rains of April have retarded some of the farm operations, so that a portion of the directions given last month have necessarily been retarded until now. Read the former calendar anew, and attend first to any work thus kept back.

May is decidedly a working month, in which the husbandman must commit his seed to the earth in faith (not forgetting the "works") if he expects to reap a harvest in Autumn. In putting in seed, be it grain, corn, or roots, it is of the first importance that it be well done, for no after labor, however thoroughly performed can wholly compensate for wrong planting. To do this properly prepare the ground by manuring well where needed, and with plow, subsoiler, and harrow, or cultivator, loosen and pulverize the soil deeply and thoroughly. If good seed be properly put in now, and the weeds kept down, failures will be comparatively few.

But for the particular operations of the farmer in addition to the work of last month, we have

Beans to plant, *ff*, at the south, and, *m*, to *l*, in this latitude and further north. They are easily injured by cold, and it is not best to plant very early. Cover lightly, say one-half to three-fourths of an inch.

Broom Corn—Plant, *f*, *m*, as common corn, or in drills, 4 feet apart and thin to 8 inches in the row.

Cabbages—See "Kitchen Garden."

Cattle still require feed in some localities. In others, all but working teams have been turned out to graze. Have the cows regularly and cleanly milked, if possible by the same person. Raise the likeliest calves and thus improve your stock. Confine working teams mainly to dry food until the heavy spring's work is over.

Cellars are supposed to be freed from all garbage and filth. Open the windows for ventilation.

Clover may still be sown, *ff*, with Spring grain.

Corn—Better let the ground be warm and dry before planting. It will come up stronger and succeed better. In this latitude we prefer from middle of May to the first of June. Let the ground be well plowed and enriched. Test the seeds by sprouting before planting. Stretch white twine over the fields to scare the crows as soon as planted, and avoid leaving any corn uncovered to attract the birds. Twine strung around the field is very suggestive to them of snares, of which they are shy. If very troublesome soak some corn in strychnine water and scatter over the field.

Cotton—Plant, *ff*, any omitted last month. Work out, *m*, *l*.

Drainage—Wet lands, is always in order until they are wholly reclaimed.

Economy of the Farm—"Witches work, while slugs sleep," says the proverb, and the man who begins business late in the day, usually finds *witch work* enough before night. Be up then betimes. Lose no time in borrowing tools that you should own, and have your own where they may be found when wanted. Remove the stumps and stones that have so long annoyed you when plowing. Out with that old hedge row by the wall, and let grass or grain replace it. Read the article headed "May Day for Tree planting," and go and do likewise, so shall your memory be green in the future.

Fences—Put them in complete order, *ff*. Poor fences make brachy cattle.

Flax and Hemp do best sown, *ff*, *m*.

Grain—Complete sowing, *ff*, *m*, any crops not put in last month. Keep stock of all kinds from feeding upon fields sown last month and from the Winter grain. Go over the latter and pull out cockle and other foul stuff which shows plainly at this season.

Grass seed of all kinds may still be sown, *ff*, both with Spring grain and upon the Fall sown, although it should have been put in last month.

Hoeing will be in order during the latter part of the month, and even earlier at the south. Begin to work out the corn early, both to promote its growth and lighten future labor.

Horse and Mule teams require good supplies of hard feed while going through the heavy Spring work. Treat them kindly and they will repay you.

Hungarian Grass or Millet—Sow, *ff*, *m*, for main crop; and, *m*, *l*, for soiling. It is not best to run crazy after this grain under the name of "Honey Blade."

Lucern—Sow *ff*, *m*. In some localities this crop is gaining favor for the large amount of hay it yields per acre.

Manures—Do not omit the manufacture of them, although the yards have just been cleared. Cart in muck, saw-dust, tan, loam, etc., for a bedding, and to absorb all liquid or semi-liquid droppings of animals.

Meadows—Keep stock from tramping over or eating down. A top dressing of wood ashes, plaster or Peruvian guano sown over the fields, *ff*, will add materially to the crop of hay.

Millet—See "Hungarian Grass," above.

Onions—Read article on page 69, March number. If not sown as they should have been last month, put in, *ff*.

Peas—See under "Kitchen Garden."

Plowing—Turn up the soil thoroughly and deeply, or at least a little deeper than ever before. If it is not practicable to subsoil a whole field, try a portion of it and note the results.

Potatoes—Plant, *ff*, any omitted last month. Where seed is scarce and costly cut to one or two eyes. We prefer sizeable potatoes cut in two or three pieces. Read article on page 70, (March No.) upon the marketable varieties.

Poultry will require little care now if running at large. Where shut up it is well to let them out for awhile about sundown, otherwise the quantity of eggs will diminish. Eggs may still be set for late chickens. Where practicable place chicken coops under plum or cherry trees. Their keen eyes will allow few insects to escape from the ground to sting the fruit.

Pumpkins—Plant, *m*, *l*, among corn, potatoes, and by themselves. For family use we prefer the cheese variety.

Root Crops—Sow, *f*, *m*, any carrots not put in; sow beets, *m*, *l*, leave turnips, except for early market or family use, until June. Remember that one acre of roots will go further as stock feed, than several acres of hay. Let the soil be deeply and finely plowed and well supplied with rotten manure.

Sheep require looking after at this season of increase. Wash, *m*, and shear, *ll*.

Sorghum—Plant, *f*, *m*, for sugar and syrup, and, *ll*, for soiling.

Swine—The pens should now be well filled with young porkers. Give the sows a full supply of food with plenty of drink, and a little salt occasionally. Keep from running at large.

Tobacco Beds—Keep well dressed and transplant from them, *f*, *m*.

Tools, Machines, etc.—Now that mowing machines and reapers are coming into such general use, see if you had not better add one this season. Have carts, wagons and other gear in order, and purchase whatever hay and harvest tools are wanted, early in the season.

**Orchard and Nursery.**

It is not likely that the good planting weather of last month was unimproved by either orchardist or nurseryman. Excepting with evergreen trees the planting should have been done in April, in this and southern latitudes. At the north it may still go on, although it is very desirable to set out fruit trees and deciduous shade trees also, as early in the Spring as possible, before the buds have started.

The nurserymen have had a long and favorable season for their operations, and have doubtless so improved it as to be in readiness for the later labors of the present month. The cool weather of April checked the growth of trees and made a much longer season for transplanting and selling, than usual.

Apple Trees may still be transplanted, *ff*, if done with care.

Budded Trees—Cut away the heads of seedlings budded last season, unless a failure is evident. Remove suckers, and tie up the new growth, *ll*, to the stubs left for that purpose.

Evergreens—We regard the middle of May as the best time for planting. See article on page 144, of present number.

Grafting may still be done, *ff*, if the scions were previously cut, and are in good order. Rub off suckers, *ll*, so as to give the grafts all the sap.

Hoe out nursery rows carefully, *m*, *l*.

Inarching may be done, *f*, *m*, on deciduous, and, *ll*, on evergreen trees.

Insects—Destroy caterpillar nests in their early stages by using the spiral brush, or, what is equally effectual,

use a sponge or rags dipped in whale oil soap and tied to a long pole. The soap is pretty certain death to all caterpillars which it reaches. Wash the trunks of all trees covered with scale or moss with the same mixture (1 lb. soap to 6 gallons of water), or common soap and water. Potash and water will answer the same purpose. Examine peach and apple trees for borers.

Layer, *ff*, *m*, the stools of quince trees and ornamental shrubs, digging about them thoroughly.

Mulch newly planted trees, especially if the weather prove dry. This will often save valuable trees.

Orchards—Manure and plow up the old orchard ground, not over six inches in depth. An occasional harrowing to keep down weeds is better than trying to crop the ground. Apply compost about the roots. Muck, lime and ashes are good for this purpose. Orchards recently set out may be kept in hoed crops, manuring heavily. Do not plow too closely to the trees, but hoe them like other plants.

Peaches, apricots and other stone fruits should have been set out last month, but may be planted, *ff*.

Pears may also be transplanted, *ff*, if neglected till now. Cut back a portion of last season's growth to form a sort of compact head and to produce fruit spurs. Allow no fruit to mature on these, or other trees the first season.

Plow often among nursery rows, turning a furrow towards the trees at one time and from them at another.

Plums may also be set out, *ff*. Cut out black warts, and begin the curculio remedies as soon as the trees are out of bloom. A poultry yard under the trees is the best remedy. See article on page 146.

Seed Beds—Keep free from weeds, watering occasionally during dry weather. Shade from the hot sun.

Stocks should all be planted out, *ff*, if not already in.

Water newly planted trees, if the ground should be dry.

Weeds—Keep down in all parts of the nursery and about standard trees.

**Kitchen and Fruit Garden.**

The cultivator of the smaller vegetable garden will have no time for idleness in May. It is one of his busiest months if he rightfully attends to all the appropriate labors.

A good coat of manure, thorough and deep plowing, or spading, and properly putting in good seed will secure a good harvest, in more than nine cases out of ten.

Except for early family use, or for early marketing, it is not advisable to hasten the planting until the ground is warm and tolerably dry. Nearly all vegetables are much better when quickly grown. Hence it is better to plant when the ground is in a condition to push them rapidly forward, to say nothing of the rotting of the seeds put in too early. There are a few exceptions to this rule as noted below.

The gardener anxious to secure the largest returns from his land will so arrange that the same soil shall produce two or three crops, such as turnips after early peas, cabbages after potatoes, spinach and lettuce among running vines, radishes with beets, etc., etc.

Read again the directions of last month and complete any work which the cool and wet weather necessarily retarded.

Asparagus beds have doubtless been manured and forked over. Cutting will begin, *f*, *m*. See article on cutting and putting it up for market on a following page.

Beans—Plant pole and bush beans, *m*, *l*. Set poles before planting. Limas should be lightly covered with the eye set downwards.

Beets—Sow, *ff*, *m*, for early use, and, *ll*, for Winter. The ground should be deeply worked.

Blackberries may still be planted, *ff*, *m*. Stake up old plantations. See article on training them, p 147.

Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, Broccoli and Kale—Sow, *ff*, *m*. Plant from cold frames and hot-beds, *f*. Cultivate the same as cabbages.

Cabbage and Cauliflower—Sow, *f*, *m*, for late use. Plant out, *ff*, *m*, from hot-beds and cold frames if any remain. Scatter dry ashes or lime over the seed rows to protect the plants from the garden flea. Hoe former plantings and examine for cut worm.

Carrots and Parsneps—Sow, *ff*, if not already in, on deeply trenched or subsoiled ground.

Capicums—Plant, *f*, *m*.

Celery—Sow, *ff*, *m*, for late. Set early plants in prepared trenches, *m*, *l*, watering and shading.

Cold Frames—Set out any remaining plants, *ff*, *m*.

Corn—Plant sweet varieties, *f*, *m*, *l*, for a succession.

Cucumbers—Plant, *ff*, *m*, for early, and, *l*, for late use and pickling. Protect young plants from the striped bug, by frames, or dust with flour and black pepper, soot, guano lime, etc.

Currants—Complete planting, *ff*, any omitted last month. Use wash water and house slops upon old bushes. Cut out old and decaying wood. If trained to a tree form cut back a portion of last season's growth.

Egg Plants—Set out, *f*, *m*, or only when the weather has become settled warm.



**Fruit Trees**—A few late growing kinds may still be planted, ff. Train wall and espalier trees, cutting back as needed. Rub off any unnecessary shoots.

**Grapes**—Have them securely tied to stakes, trellises and arbors: rub off any superfluous shoots and destroy insects depositing eggs or preying upon them. The borders were probably dug up and well manured last month. Read Grape articles on page 147 of the present number.

**Herbs**—Set, ff, any remaining roots.

**Hoe** early plants, to destroy weeds and loosen the soil.

**Hot Beds**—Complete planting from them, f, m.

**Insects**—Keep garden fleas from turnips, cabbages, etc., by dusting with lime, wood ashes, guano, flour and pepper, etc. Use the same on cucumbers and other vines for the striped bug. A moderate sprinkling with weak whale oil soap will answer a similar purpose.

**Kohl Rabi**—Sow, ff, m.

**Lettuce**—Sow and plant from hot-beds, ff. Sow every two weeks for a succession. Give room to head well.

**Martynus**—Sow, f, m, for pickles. They are also attractive as flowering plants upon the border.

**Melons**—Plant and protect as cucumbers, keeping the different varieties by themselves if seed is to be saved, otherwise they will mix. Pumpkins, cucumbers, squashes, etc., should be kept apart for the same reason.

**Mushroom Beds** for Summer use may be made, f, m.

**Mustard**—Sow, ff, m, l, for a succession of greens.

**Nasturtiums**—Sow, ff, m, for flowers and for pickles.

**Okra**—Sow, ff. Plant out former sowings, m.

**Onions** should have been sown last month. If not done put them in, ff. See prize article in March *Agriculturist*, page 69, and chapter on the onion fly, page 108, April No.

**Peas**—Sow Champion of England, or some other choice marrowfat, f, m, l, to form a succession with the Daniel O'Rourke and other early peas sown last month. Stick when three or four inches high.

**Potatoes** may still be planted, ff. See under "Farm" head; also directions for raising sweet varieties, page 143.

**Radishes**—Sow at intervals, f, m, l, among other vegetables, or on ground, where late crops are to be planted.

**Raspberries**—Tie up canes, ff. Cut back long straggling shoots. Fork in a good supply of manure if not already done. See method of training on page 182, Vol. 17.

**Rhubarb**—Sow seed and plant roots, ff, although better planted in April. Keep ground light, rich, and free from weeds. Established plants will now afford fine "pullings."

**Sage, Savory, etc.**—Sow, ff, m. Transplant last year's sowing.

**Salsify and Scorzonera**—Sow, ff, on rich deep soil.

**Seeds**—See that roots spoken of last month are all out for a supply of pure home-grown seeds. Test all seeds before sowing so as to have no failures.

**Spinach**—Hoe and thin plants wintered over, saving a quantity for seed; sow, f, m, l, for successive use.

**Squashes**—Plant in well manured and deeply dug hills, f, m. Protect from their

greatest enemies, the striped lugs, as directed under melons; or surround with floor oil-cloth, pasteboard, birch bark, etc., pegged down as seen in the cut. Bugs have very little ingenuity and will seldom climb over these although open at the top. Read article on Squash growing.

**Strawberries**—New beds may be made, f, m. Water in dry weather. Keep free from weeds.

**Tomatoes**—Put out early plants, ff, m, and sow seed at the same time for late use. See directions on page 142.

**Transplanting**—Much of this will require doing, m, l. Select damp cloudy weather before a rain, if possible; otherwise water and shade the plants after moving.

**Turnips**—Sow for Summer use, f, m. Early sowings will need thinning and weeding, m.

**Weeds**—Keep them down or they will keep the vegetables down.

**Winter Cherry (Physalis)**—Plant out, f, m, as tomatoes. Seed may be sown, ff, m.

### Flower Garden and Lawn

The first flowers of the crocus and snowdrop have already faded, but a richer and more abundant bloom is now unfolded in the fragrant hyacinth and narcissus, while the gaudy tulip and majestic crown imperial are opening their petals, and lending attractions to the flower borders. Several of the early flowering shrubs are also in bloom and the more hardy plants of the houses or conservatories are being added to the borders, increasing their beauty.

Annuals now require sowing for late flowering. Transplant from hot-beds and houses, m.

**Asters & Balsams**—Sow, ff, m, on warm sunny borders.

**Bedding Plants**—Set out a bed or mass of verbenas, another of petunias, with a patch of daisies here, and geraniums or other good bedding plants, somewhere else. This is far better than to mix them up promiscuously.

**Borders and Lawn Beds**—Keep neat and clean, often raking the ground among the flowers.

**Box and Grass Edging**—Set out, ff. Clip old borders, leaving them of cone shape rather than with square tops.

**Bulbs**—Beds of these which were planted last Fall still make a rich show. By keeping them shaded from the hot sun they will continue in bloom for two or three weeks longer. Keep well tied up.

**Carnations, Pinks and Pansies**—Plant out and sow seed f, m. Tie up carnation flower stalks and slit sheaths of choice kinds inclined to bloom upon the side.

**Dahlias, Gladioluses and Tuberoses**—Plant out, f, m those started in houses and boxes last month. Read "Dahlia Culture" on page 148.

**Daisies**—Divide and reset or plant out, ff, m.

**Dielytra**—Divide and reset or plant out, ff. They will show finely in masses.

**Evergreens**—Plant about the lawn or in groups and belts, for screens and hedges, f, mm. See page 144.

**Frames and Pits**—Remove the remaining plants and set out, ff, m.

**Fuchsias and Geraniums**—Bring from houses, f, m, and plant in the borders. Keep well staked.

**Gravel Walks**—Renew old and make new, ff, m. Keep well hoed and raked.

**Hedges**—Plant deciduous, ff, if omitted last month.

**Evergreen hedges** may be set out, f, m.

**Hoe** or loosen the ground around tender plants. The ladies' garden fork is a good implement for this purpose.

The soil should not be allowed to crust.

**Honeysuckles** and other climbers, including annuals should mostly be planted, ff, if not done last month. The cypress vine does best planted, m, when the ground is warm. See illustrated trellis, page 339, vol. 17.

**Hot-Beds**—Set out the remaining plants, ff, m. The houses will furnish a supply for borders and massing.

**Labels, Stakes and Dahlia Poles** should all be in readiness against they are needed.

**Lawn**—Sow with plaster, guano or bone sawings, or water with liquid manure if not done last month. Mow, m, l, and roll smooth.

**Mulch** newly planted trees, especially evergreens. Leaves, sawdust, tanbark, old hay or straw spread around these, prevent them from drying, and furnish a gradual supply of manure to be washed down to the roots.

**Pansies, Petunias and Verbenas**—Plant out, ff, m, and sow seed for late plants.

**Perennials and Biennials**—Divide and reset old roots. Transplant last year's seedlings, ff, m.

**Portulacacs**—Sow, ff, m, in patches of distinct colors.

**Roses**—Plant, ff. Bring from houses, f, m, and turn into a deep rich soil. Train climbing and pillar varieties. Destroy slugs on leaves by whale oil soap mixture described elsewhere. Layer old wood, f, m.

**Stocks and Wall Flowers**—Sow, and plant out, f, m.

**Turf**—Renew, ff, any bare spots on the lawn or in the grass edging and walks.

**Water** new planted shrubs, trees, and flowers as needed.

**Weeds** should give place to flowers. Do not allow them to get a start in these grounds.

### Green and Hot Houses.

Fire heat may now be nearly suspended, except in collections of tropical plants, and during damp, foggy, or cool weather. Abundance of air is required to harden the plants for a removal to the open ground. Some of them may be taken from the hot-house to the green-house, and afterwards to the open air, rather than carry them from a high temperature to exposed situations at once.

Towards the middle of the month, the work of removal may begin, carrying out the more hardy first. Arrange them in a convenient, tasteful order, and screen from high winds. Some of them may be turned into the border for Summer blooming, relying upon younger plants for flowering next Winter. Where the pots are placed on the ground it is well to put ashes under them to keep away worms and other insects.

**Achimenes and Gloxinias**—Keep in a warm situation, partially shaded.

**Azalias**—Water and syringe freely now that they are growing rapidly. Cut back straggling branches to form a compact head.

**Bulbs**—Plant out any still remaining in pots or glasses.

**Cactuses**—Syringe for insects. Strike cuttings, ff.

**Callas**—Water freely while in flower.

**Camellias** are now in a fine growing state, and need frequent waterings. Syringe the foliage, to keep down insects. Give them an airy situation.

**Carnations**—Take to border, f, m, stake those in bloom.

**Chrysanthemums**—The stock may still be increased by cuttings, suckers and division of roots.

**Cinerarias**—Late ones are still in bloom, and need frequent waterings.

**Cuttings of Cactuses, Euphorbias and other succulents.**—Make these, f, m, partially drying them before striking, as they will be less liable to rot.

**Fuchsias**—Plant out in borders, m, or shift those intended to bloom in pots. Water freely.

**Grapes** require care according to the degree of forcing

they have received. Some vines may now show good sized berries or nearly ripe fruit and require little water, especially among the bunches. Others are later and need frequent syringings and pinching back. A portion may need thinning with scissors. The borders should be uncovered, manured and forked over.

**Inarching**—May be performed on woody plants that do not root readily by cuttings, such as oranges, lemons, etc.

**Insects**—Allow no stronghold to become colonized at this season. It will be more difficult to dislodge them afterwards. Water and tobacco fumes will usually do it.

**Japan Lilies**—Shift or plant out. Tie up flower stalks.

**Layer, ff, woody and herbaceous plants** to increase them.

**Oranges, lemons, oleanders and myrtles**—Carry to open ground and water frequently. Plant seeds for a stock.

**Pelargoniums** are beginning to bloom. Watch the appearance of the green fly and fumigate to destroy them.

**Roses** may all be removed to the open grounds, f, m. Increase the stock by cuttings, ff.

**Water** freely, both before and after removing plants from the houses. Evening is the best time to apply it.

### Apiary in May.

BY M. QUINBY.

If this month should prove cold and wet, many light stocks of bees would fail to get a supply of honey, although pollen might be carried in quite freely. During every turn of wet or cool weather, that confines them to the hive for more than a day or two at a time, it will be necessary to watch all stocks that have a scanty supply of stores.

If examined daily, and a colony is found destitute and apparently dead some cool morning, they may be revived by inverting the hive, and pouring a few ounces of honey or syrup of sugar among the bees; then confining them to the hive with a cloth over the bottom, and bringing it to the fire to warm up. In a few hours if the feed is taken up, it may be returned to the stand. Keep a good lookout for robbers as the danger is not over, till plenty of honey is obtained from flowers. As soon as there are bees enough to protect the combs properly, the front side of the hive may be raised half an inch. Continue the search for the moth worm in all stocks not crowded with bees. Swarms may be expected in many places the last of the month, if the weather is favorable, and stocks in good condition. Have hives in readiness, that they may be hived without delay. No noise is needed to make them cluster, nor is any wash necessary to make them like the hive. Let the hive be clean, and not too smooth inside. Be sure to make the whole swarm enter by stirring gently with the feather end of a quill, or if necessary, a moderate sprinkling of water. Carry immediately to the stand, raise the front side half an inch, and put up a shade for the hive in the middle of the day. In small apiaries of 20 stocks or less, in good condition, it is best to prepare two empty hives for one old stock. When a greater number are kept, an average of one and-a-half will do. There will not be more than bees enough in any number of swarms that may be thrown out, to profitably occupy a greater number of new hives when properly distributed. With a large number of stocks, most of the small or after swarms may be united till strong colonies are formed. Where but few stocks are kept, the small swarms must of necessity be further apart, and many of them either hived alone, or returned to the parent stock.

### How Cane Sugar is grown and Made...II.

(Continued from page 102.)

#### TILLAGE OF THE CANE FIELDS.

The planting season extends from the first of December to the first of March, according to the latitude and circumstances of the planter. In southern Texas, it begins several weeks earlier than in Louisiana. It follows immediately upon the close of the grinding season, and it is only in case of overflow, or hindrances beyond the control of the farmer, that it is delayed later than the first of March.

The first labor after the planting, is to bring up the young cane as uniformly as possible. Though a large vigorous plant at its maturity, it is very feeble at the start, looking much like the first shoots of broom corn. As soon as occasional blades are seen in the rows, indicating that the shoots are ready to break through the soil, light harrows are drawn over the surface. This is the more necessary from the fact that the soil throughout the whole sugar districts is largely mixed with clay, and bakes soon after it is stirred. The rains are frequent, and without this light harrowing, the crop starts without uniformity, and many of the shoots show themselves quite too late to be of any service.

After the blades are up a few inches, tillage commences. They first "run around" the crop, as it is called, by turning a furrow from the cane on each side, with a light mule plow. The hands immediately follow with hoes, brushing out the young shoots, and destroying all weeds

These hoes are very stout clumsy affairs, weighing about three times as much as the northern hoe, and with the handle, generally a home-made article, make a pretty good load for a man to carry all day, whether he hoes much or little. Though improved plows, harrows, and cultivators are multiplying upon the sugar plantations, the reign of the old hoe is undisturbed. The philosophy of this dynasty is summarily expressed in the reply we received to one of our inquiries. "Such hoes as you have at the North would not last a nigger a day." This, too, in a soil where there are no stones, and upon plantations entirely clear of roots. We could but think that we should feel better satisfied, as to the soundness of this philosophy, after seeing it tried.

The steel cultivators and horse hoes, so common at the North, are not generally known here. They are certainly well adapted to these alluvial lands, and could not fail to save at least one-fourth of the labor of tillage. This is a very large tax to pay for the want of agricultural societies, fairs and journals, of which the sugar region is very generally destitute.

About ten days after the first hoeing, the plow is again used, turning the furrow, toward the cane. The whole surface of the ground between the rows is stirred this time, either with the plow or cultivator. On the best managed plantations, the tillage is repeated at intervals of ten days to two weeks until the cane covers the ground which is about the first of July. At each time, the soil is thrown up toward the cane, and when the cultivation is completed, the cane stands upon broad ridges, with deep furrows between, to carry off the water into the ditches which run back into the swamp. Cane requires a higher cultivation than either corn or cotton, and those planters who till most frequently and thoroughly make the best crops. When the cane shades the ground, cultivation stops, and the leisure season of the sugar planter begins. It fortunately happens that this is at the hottest part of the Summer, when labor is most oppressive. These three months correspond to the Winter upon the northern farm, in the opportunity they offer to take breath and lay plans for another year. The hands are occupied in making improvements, where the planter has skill enough to devise them, and in cutting and carting wood for the sugar house, and in other preparations for

#### THE GRINDING OF THE CANE.

This is the harvest of the year, the most intensely laborious, and yet the most joyous time upon the plantation. It usually commences in October, and lasts until Christmas or later. Indeed we found that some had not finished as late as the tenth of February last. Where the cane is well ripened, it keeps for some weeks without any injury. As soon as heavy frosts are threatened, the cane is cut, and laid in windrows, the tops lapping over the butts so that the cold does not affect the part that is used for sugar. It is only the lower part of the stalk, about six feet in length, that matures sufficiently in this climate, to make sugar. This is stripped of its leaves, topped, and carried to the sugar house as it is wanted. The whole force of the plantation now centers about the sugar house, and on most of the estates, the fires once lighted are kept up until the grinding is finished. They work in relays, every man being occupied eighteen hours in the twenty-four; and on nine-tenths of the plantations, without any observance of the Sabbath. Notwithstanding this severe labor, the season is generally welcomed as one of general social enjoyment, and more generous fare. There is a liberal supply of sweets, and sometimes of stimulants, and, not unfrequently of other rewards to draw out the largest amount of labor possible, until the work is completed.

On many of the plantations, the machinery for the manufacture of sugar is very complete, costing from fifty to a hundred thousand dollars. There are now in the country about twenty-six hundred sugar plantations. On three-fourths of them, at least, steam is used. The larger part of the sugar is made on about three-hundred plantations, that are furnished with expensive apparatus.

The cane is dropped under a large open shed or near it. About half a dozen hands are constantly employed in feeding the rollers. The canes are carried up on an endless apron, and pass twice between very large iron rollers, which press them nearly dry. The bagasse, as the pressed canes are called, is taken on another apron as it falls from the rollers, and is carried to the top of the chimney and emptied into the furnace. This is a recent improvement, and saves more than one half of the fuel. On one of the plantations that we visited, the burning of the bagasse saved nine cords of wood daily. They only used three-fourths of a cord to a hoghead of sugar, in place of two and-a-half formerly. As wood is already getting to be a scarce article on all the large plantations, this improvement is too important a matter to be long overlooked.

With the best mills yet invented, it is said, that nearly one third of the moisture is still left in the cane after crushing, with a large share of the saccharine matter. Where this refuse is not burned, it usually lies around the sugar house as a nuisance. Sometimes it is carted to the

levee, and used to strengthen it, in places where it is inclined to wash.

#### SUGAR MAKING.

The juice of the cane is carried by spouts from the mill to the boiler, into which it passes through a strainer. Here it is heated to about 140° F., when it is clarified by the introduction of lime. This causes a precipitate of impurities and colors the juice. In many of the establishments it is still further purified by filtration. The next process is to evaporate the water, and make a thick syrup. This is done by the application of heat in a variety of methods. There are at least seven different forms of doing this in Louisiana. In the best establishments, it is boiled in vacuo, on the principle that liquids boil at a lower temperature, as the pressure of the atmosphere is removed. This process not only economises fuel, but avoids the danger of burning, and makes a much better article of sugar and molasses.

When the syrup is sufficiently thickened, which is a point in the process of great importance, it is drawn off into vats, where it granulates. A portion of the syrup, however, does not crystallize, and to separate this liquid from the crystals, it is put in hogsheds, in the bottoms of which are holes, in which are inserted canes, that reach above the contents. The canes contract as the granulation goes on, and the syrup runs off into vats below. This liquid is the molasses of commerce. It is commonly sold by the planters in the vat, at so much a gallon, the purchaser furnishing his own casks, and removing it. What remains in the hogshed is the common New-Orleans sugar, in which the shrunk cane is still found, when it comes to market.

Most of the sugar manufactured in this region, we were informed, is either consumed on the river, or goes down East. The process of refining sugar has been so greatly improved and cheapened, that the refined article is in much larger demand than formerly, especially in New-York, and in the region immediately dependent upon it for supplies. The refineries of New-York are generally supplied from the cheaper sugars of the West India islands. Where brown sugars are used, nothing stands before the Louisiana article. It is very light colored, lively, and not bad to take, either on the cakes, or in the coffee.

The average yield of sugar is something under a hoghead of one thousand pounds to the acre, and the molasses. When the soil is very rich, and the season is unusually favorable, two hogsheds and upwards, are sometimes made. The crop is considered much more lucrative than cotton, when it does well. In favorable seasons, and under the best management, the profits are very large. But it has many drawbacks. The plant is an exotic, and very liable to be injured by untimely frosts, both early and late. Nearly all the sugar lands are leveed, and subject to overflow, when these embankments give way. The planters live in constant apprehension of these calamities, which are liable to come at any moment, and sweep away their crops and animals. The crop of the last season was unusually large, and had it not been for the Bell crevasse which swept over a territory forty miles square, in the heart of the sugar districts, it would have been the largest ever produced in the country.

#### Breeding In-and-In.

BY C. M. CLAY.....II.

[EXPLANATION.—The closing paragraph of "Cattle Breeder's" article in March, leaves the impression that a second article would follow in continuation, and it was so understood by Mr. Clay. Hence his delay in replying, until a recent note from us informed him that no such article had been received. He immediately forwarded the following, which comes to hand after we have stereotyped the succeeding pages where it should have appeared in connection with another article on the same subject. (This is one of the last pages made up.) We are under the necessity of using smaller type also, in order to prevent its running beyond our unsteretyped limits.—Ed.]

"A Cattle Breeder's" 2nd No. is before me. (See page 75 March No.) Its length is formidable; but the importance of the subject will warrant a close scrutiny of all he has said. He prefaces his argument by saying: "I do not advocate the breeding 'in-and-in' in all cases; and do not recommend others to do so at all, except under circumstances of perfect health and condition of the animals so proposed to be bred." This is for all practical purposes giving up the whole theory; for as no man can tell when an animal is in perfect health and condition, he can never be sure but that he is committing a grave offense against Nature's law, which will certainly not go unwhipped of justice! Here I might rest the argument, but that I desire to place this matter beyond cavil; which if not done, will be the fault of the disputant.

1st. *The Stud Book.*—Following up "A Cattle Breeder's" advice, I have posted up myself in relation to the Stud Book, never fearing that all the laws of animal life would fail to run parallel. I have before me, in addition, letters from some of the most intelligent practical breeders of the Race-Horse—from all of which I conclude:

a.—The Race-Horse so far from being advanced by "close" breeding is not a pure breed, but a composite of the Arabian. The Barb, the Persian, the Turkish, and the Arabian, mingle in his veins. Even if these are of quasi specific type—they can not claim excellence from close breeding but, the contrary.

b.—The original stock imported in the reign of Edward the Third were reinforced repeatedly by new importations at various times, and especially from the time of James the 1st to Anne's reign.

c.—Since which time the improvement of the race-horse has been the result of culture.

d.—There were great numbers of horses for selection, and the four breeds were combined in infinite variety. So much for the general facts of the stud-book. Now for authority and special proof.

e.—James K. Duke, Esq., of Scott Co., Ky., one of the most successful breeders and racers in America, says in reply to my questions: "It has been a maxim with the English and American breeder to avoid in-and-in breeding of the race-horse. In England the practice is to combine different strains, and of these strains there are many." "In America it has not always been practicable to breed so judiciously, because the field for selection was comparatively small. It has sometimes occurred, as in the case of the Arabian family, that there was but one highly distinguished strain on the turf: and that strain, the stallions of that family were almost exclusively bred from. But the conjunction of the mares with the horses of that strain was deplored as an evil. Fresh importations of English blood came to our relief, and the Arabics faded from the scene: Boston and Wagner only of the old American and Arabic blood proved good enough to survive." The italics are mine.

f.—Lexington, bred by E. Warfield, Esq., of Ky., made the best time on authentic record, either in England, or America. The time of Flying Childers is merely traditional, and regarded by modern racers as a myth. Lexington was by Boston, an American; his dam by Tarpedon, an English horse. Boston and Tarpedon were of distinct strains; the one the grandson of Sir Archie, the best American; the other the son of Emilius, the best English stallion of his day.

g.—Mr. Duke concludes by sustaining generally my theory, abating somewhat its stringency as you descend in the animal scale of intellectual and muscular action.

h.—Landers D. Bruce, Esq., Secretary of the Ky. Trotting Association, who is about getting up an American stud book (for which he is deemed highly competent) sustains my theory with regard to the race horse to the fullest extent; giving many special examples of entire failures of the best racers by "close" breeding! Time will not allow me to introduce them.

2. *Analogy: Man.* a.—The Jews were not only "warlike" requiring "great bodily health and energy in action," (which so far is giving up the argument as drawn from Jewish history, in my favor) but highly observant of natural and psychological and physical laws. Their theory and destiny are on my side. I hold that it is unphilosophical to go back to the mythical times of "Adam and Eve" in these discussions, and leave my opponent in full possession of all that field, as I propose to discuss a practical common sense subject, with practical common sense men.

b.—I deny the statements as regards the Greeks and Romans generally, and call for the data. Great excesses were committed in various ways among the Greeks and Romans in their semi-Barbaric State, as well as in their corrupt decline; but the best specimens of both races were clear in thought and deed of the imputations of my opponent.

c.—In the case supposed of "close" marriage, I am not willing to admit the conclusion. And whilst all the effects of a good law are not at once lost, nor all the effects of a bad law (or rather abused law), at once visible, it does not prove them therefore to be disregarded as a general rule. Besides it is simply a "petitio principii" which is worth nothing.

d.—"Brains" I agree are "desirable," but close breeding is not the way to get them, as I will show presently. The example of Georgia is not conclusive: but so far as authority goes, is certainly worthy of respectful consideration; and so far as the observation of men can determine a law of nature, as testimony, is certainly cumulative in my favor. That cousins may come over the line and marry with impunity! certainly does not prove the Georgians the less "Solomons" in their action. The same objection might be urged against legal adultery or even marriage itself! which is a clear case of "reductio ad absurdum" against my opponent. A great many men have married cousins, and many more propose to do so, which brings a strong force against legislation on this subject, and when in the face of the natural *vis inertia* of legislative reform and these powerful interests, such acts are passed in intelligent communities, and projected in others, the sneers of even "A Cattle Breeder," (whose abil



ities I certainly do not despise) will not fail to have due weight with sensible men.

e.—I repeat, that outside of mental and sentimental phenomena, man is governed by the same physical laws as other animals. This is not an unmeaning dictum, as my opponent would intimate. I don't use that sort of filling up; nor will such practice go unobserved in others: If he grants that "make men savages then they are like other brutes," then he yields all that I ask from the argument of "analogy;" although in paragraph 2nd, (2a.) he asserts the contrary! Let me explain a little: give an ox sufficient food, and he will fatten; give a man any quantity of food, and he remains the same. Why? Because his mind is over active, his sentiments are engaged, he is speculating, he is in love! But let his mind become inert, and his sentiments stagnant (all possible!) and he will fatten also! The physical law is, nevertheless, the same in man and animals because of the "mental and sentimental phenomena," but only obstructed, retarded, or deranged by them! Indeed the same phenomena "mental and physical," are common to man and the lower animals: though the mental are more faint in brutes. Remove the ox from his accustomed mates, and he will not take on fat so well, or at all, for a time; here his *sentiments* control the natural law. So the cow when separated from her calf ceases for a while to yield her usual milk. It can be proved by dissection that a dog when fed, and put upon a hunt, does not digest his food in the usual time. Here the *mental* law simply controls the physical.

If "close" marriages were forbidden on account of "mental and sentimental phenomena" only, then in the case supposed (2. c.) the issue would be the same as if "wide" breeding was practiced; but as in addition to the "mental and sentimental phenomena," the simply physical law is violated, I should look for (what experience proves) a malformed issue!

f.—The Georges. I always thought the Georges were rather poor specimens of breeding: if my opponent likes the result he will advise others to follow the example: I do neither! I shall not forget that Victoria is not only a queen but a woman; and I shall say no more of her than to join in that general regard, which her subjects feel for her as a good Queen and an amiable woman! But it has never been the policy of the wise aristocracy of England to breed, or desire great sovereigns; as they prefer a puppet to a real "King stock!" So I confidently claim English History as part of my defense; and Aztec History also, especially.

I have thus noticed at length the arguments of my opponent against my dictum of "analogy," all of which fail to the ground of themselves! I shall be brief in advancing my standard on this field.

g.—Authority. I have before me letters from some of the most distinguished Physicians of our day; I will insert a few extracts: "My impressions, made by all that I have witnessed in life, are strongly against the intermarriage of blood relations. I may say that my aversion to it is hereditary. My father who was a physician, and a close observer was in the habit of mentioning so many instances of deterioration of offspring from such marriages, in mind and body, that I can not remember when I did not look upon them as improper. I have some experience of the 'in-and-in breeding' among domestic animals, and am sure that it is pernicious. \* \* \* The puppies of a brother and sister are often *idiotic*." He agrees with Mr. Duke, that the rule is less perhaps to be regarded as you descend in the animal scale of intelligence—and that in birds and fishes it needs hardly to be observed. Again: "I look for degeneracy in the children of first cousins married: I certainly have met with examples enough to keep up the apprehension all my life." He also, a member of the Presbyterian Church, approves of the Catholic rule against cousins marrying, as more rational than the Presbyterian one against the marrying of sisters-in-law, etc. That is to say, the physical law forbids, in the first case: and the "sentimental" only, if at all, in the last! Another distinguished Physician after confirming my dictum, says: "At the last session of the Association of the superintendents of the American Institutions for the Insane, this subject was elaborately discussed; and there was no difference of opinion in regard to the physical defects that resulted from the practice of breeding 'in-and-in' so far as the Human family is concerned. Idiocy, diminished size, deformity, defect of the senses (*ceteris paribus*), are infinitely more likely to occur in the progeny of blood relations than in the issue of persons of dissimilar blood." And in this he is sustained by Chapin of the Pennsylvania Institute of the Blind. I have by me elaborate facts.

But the "Report on influence of marriages of consanguinity upon offspring; by S. M. Bemiss, M. D., (extracted from the transactions of the American Medical Association) Phila., 1858," is conclusive upon this subject. Here are 833 cases of marriages of consanguinity, classified so as to show the results; and 125 cases of non-relationship also; which last being negative and limited, is not of so much worth. The tables occupy 109 pages, and are diffi-

cult to condense, but I will state generally, that of the incestuous intercourse between brother and sister (class a.) father and child, in 55 reported cases of marriage or intercourse, there were only 31 children! and of these 29 were "defective!" (class b.) Marriages between uncle, aunt and nephew, 78 cases show 51 children! "Defective" 40! The tables of kindred more remote are too voluminous to condense; but there is a summary (Table 2) which shows that of 200 families there were 1,375 children: 267 "defective;" 92 "deaf and dumb;" 23 "blind;" 137 "idiotic;" 17 "insane!" That is to say, out of 1,375 children of parents of "close" breeding there were 536 abnormal! Whilst out of 125 cases of not "near of kin" there were 837 children, 18 "defective;" 3 "deaf and dumb;" 1 "blind;" 6 "idiots;" 1 "insane!" That is to say 29 abnormal only! out of 833 children! Thus 40.3 per cent of the children of "close" breeding were abnormal; and only 14.91 per cent of the children of "wide" breeding abnormal! The positive proof here is overwhelming; the negative proof I think is about fully up to common observation; but requires the full statistics of the nation or nations to put it beyond cavil.

I think I may safely rest my case, of "analogy" from "man," with my readers.

3. Experience.—"A Cattle Breeder's" comments upon "Experience" as laid down by me, is decidedly "Pick-wickian!" I call the attention of my readers to it as a polemical curiosity!

4. Special Proof.—The question with regard to the "Campbell" hogs is pertinent. They excelled in weight; of good average neatness and maturity. They could have been improved by more compactness, and facility of fattening which generally follows that form; but then the fault was not in wide selection, but in bad selection! They certainly displayed none of the effects which I attribute to close breeding.

5. False Proof.—My opponents objections are fully answered in a previous paragraph (1 a. b. c. etc.). It is true the "stud book breeders" have not changed their practice "yesterday, last year," nor for "a long time ago!" But I overlook my opponents "close sailing" in consequence of his compliment to "Old Kentucky!" So much for "A Cattle Breeder's" No. 2!

White Hall P. O., Madison Co., Ky, April, '59.

For the American Agriculturist.

### Hints on Preparing "Garden Truck" and other Country Produce for Market... I.

BY B. STEPHENS—WASHINGTON MARKET, N. Y.

[According to our own observations, a very large amount in the aggregate of vegetables and other farm produce brought to this market is lost, or sold at less than half price, simply because ignorantly or carelessly put up or handled. We doubt not the same is the case elsewhere, though we think there is less loss from this cause in Philadelphia, and perhaps one or two others of the various markets we have visited. Regular gardeners, or those who make a business of marketing vegetables, soon learn what is necessary; the loss is generally experienced by those, who only occasionally send in some special crop, or a chance surplus of anything grown in excess. We purpose therefore to give, from time to time, some specific directions for putting up various articles. These are prepared by a gentleman long conversant with market operations. These articles are not "ax-grinders" or advertisements; no one will find in Washington Market any dealer by the name of "B. Stephens"—this is merely a *nom de plume* which the writer has taken a fancy to assume and write under.—Ed.]

ASPARAGUS.—This should be cut as long as possible, by running the knife down in the ground by the side of the sprout, taking care not to injure roots. Wash in clean water, and tie in bunches of 5 to 6 inches in diameter. Tie lightly with strips of bass matting, which are the cheapest and best material. A strap should be used to compress the bunches in tying. Two ties are needed, one near the butts, and the other about two inches from the tops. Keep the tops even, and throw out all small and crooked sprouts, which may be put up for second quality. Set them in a cool, shady place, until ready to send to market. Just before packing, cut the butts off even, with a large knife. Use slat crates for transporting them, to give air. Put around and between the bunches plenty of fresh meadow grass, previously watered. Never sprinkle water over the bunches, as it will turn the plants rusty. If kept over night after cutting,

stand it butt down on clean grass or hay, which has been made thoroughly wet.

RHUBARB OR PIE PLANT.—Tie in bunches of seven or nine stalks, with bass matting, keeping the butts all even, and cut the tops off square, leaving on about three inches of the leaf. Tie with three bands, and pack the same as asparagus.

SPINACH, SPROUTS are sent to market in barrels, well aired by boring full of holes. They should be covered with muslin or coarse cloth. Wash the sprouts clean before packing.

EARLY WHITE TURNIPS.—Pull and trim the tap root off, and thoroughly wash in clean water, being careful not to bruise either top or bottom, as this would cause the top to ferment, and the bottom to turn black. Tie in bunches of seven, putting the largest one in the middle. Use bass for ties. Keep in a cool, shady place, as it injures the sale very much if they are wilted. The best kind is the early red top strap-leaved. The red top looks best after handling, and the small top will bunch easier, hold less water and sap, and is less liable to ferment when bruised; consequently they are in more demand for shipping. Turnips, beets, parsnips, and cabbages are generally sold at wholesale 13 for the dozen, or 104 for 100.

RUSSIA BAGAS when raised early, are bunched the same as white ones, but the best way with them is to cut the tops off, and send in barrels.

EARLY BEETS, PARSNIPS, AND CARROTS are worked and bunched like turnips.

GREEN CORN should be selected with care, and be cut so as to leave all the husks on. Put up in gunny bags, adding five to each hundred for "tallies." Keep in the shade, and where it can have plenty of air, as it will heat very easily.

NEW POTATOES should be put in barrels, and covered with coarse cloth, the barrels to be cut or bored at the sides to admit air. It is advisable to sort the potatoes, so as to make large ones seconds, and culls. Fill the barrels so that they will be full when they get to market. Be sure they do not get sun-burnt after digging, as it will spoil the whole of them.

TOMATOES are best sent in crates about 6 inches high, and broad and long enough to hold a bushel. Put in none that are bruised or over-ripe, as they will *spoil* the rest. If baskets are used, let them hold a bushel, and be made stout so that they will not yield to pressure in handling, and mash the tomatoes.

CUCUMBERS are to be sorted, making primes and seconds. Put up in baskets or barrels, 105 for a hundred. [This adding a small number above the actual count, in putting up green-corn, cucumbers, etc., is customary in the New-York market, and is expected by dealers. It is equivalent to the "Baker's Dozen," and is designed, we suppose, to allow the retailer a chance to throw out an occasional broken or defective specimen objected to by the purchaser.—Ed.]

GREEK BEANS AND PEAS are sent in barrels, baskets, etc. Be sure to give plenty of air.

(To be Continued.)

CONSOLATORY.—A Scotchman having lodged at an inn, was asked in the morning how he had slept. "Not very good," he replied, "but I was better off than the bugs, for not one of them stopped to close an eye during the whole night."

A young man at Niagara having been crossed in love, walked out to the precipice, gave one lingering look at the gulf beneath him, and then went home. His body was found next morning—in bed. A very sensible young man, we think. Ed.

### The New Onions.

Of the new onions, the seed of which we imported and introduced among our subscribers late last season, Mr. A. Newberry, of Southeastern Tennessee, thus writes in a recent letter: "I can not speak in too high terms of the new onions, the seed of which you sent me as a premium last season—I mean the *Improved yellow flat onion* (No. 53), the *Improved Brown Globe Onion* (No. 54), and the *Improved White Globe Onion* (No. 55). I have never seen or tasted anything equal or near equal to them, excepting the "Portugal Onion," the flavor of which they greatly resemble. I can scarcely decide which of the three is the best—if I have any preference it is for the *White Globe* (No. 55)."

[Many similar reports at an earlier date led us to import a large amount of seed of the last named (No. 55) much of which has been distributed, and we have a little still left which is now offered in our premium seed list.—Ed.]

### The Culture of Field Squashes and Pumpkins—The Hubbard Squash.

The yield of squashes, as well as pumpkins, is so large, the culture so easy, and the feeding and market value so high, especially for good squashes, that it is almost surprising to find so little attention given to this subject. The New-York City market is generally pretty well supplied, but this is seldom the case in most other cities and country villages, so far as we have observed. In this city we have seldom seen a large surplus, especially of squashes, or, unremunerating prices. They almost always bring near \$20 a ton, we believe. We have known them raised very profitably, in the vicinity of New-Haven, Conn., when the market price was but \$10 per ton.

All plants having so much vine, as squashes and pumpkins, require for their full development a good supply of organic matter in the soil. New land, abounding in leaf mold (rotten leaves,) is well adapted to them. Sod land is also good. They will, however, do well on any good soil, especially if a free supply of manure be added. They may be planted in this latitude at any time during May. The largest yield of pumpkins we ever saw, was in a corn-field, on new land, where the seeds were merely stuck down by the side of every third hill in every third row, after the second hoeing in the fore part of June. This is too late for squashes, and usually for pumpkins.

We have a lengthy communication from James J. H. Gregory, Essex Co., Mass., on the culture of the squash—particularly the "Hubbard" variety, from which we condense the following.

"The suggestions I send you are from an experience of some fifteen years with the Hubbard. Any person who has been successful with the Autumnal Marrow Squash, will find no difficulty with the Hubbard. The latter is a more vigorous grower than the Marrow, and the hills should be about two feet further apart each way. Those experienced in squash cultivation know that a liberal application of manure is essential to success—six to ten cords to the acre of rich compost are often needed. The Hubbard requires quite as much as the Marrow, and cannot be cheated in this respect, or an insignificant yield may be looked for. With high culture its yield sometimes surpasses anything I have seen recorded of the Marrow. For example, one of my neighbors once raised 700 pounds from five hills. Last season, Hiram Plummer, of South Danvers, gathered over 1,400 pounds from eleven hills, on land that had been well manured and trenched for pear

trees. But let no one look for any such yield with ordinary culture, or he will be disappointed.

In preparing the ground for squashes, let a good share of the manure applied, be distributed broadcast over the surface, and plowed in to furnish food for the main roots of the vines which branch out in all directions, as well as for the rootlets which strike into the soil from the main runners below the footstalks of the leaves. Those who have cultivated the best varieties of the pumpkin, must expect to find the squash a more tender plant, beset with more enemies and less able to withstand their ravages. The common striped bug must be anticipated by sprinkling the leaves of the young vines, as soon as they have fairly broken ground, with lime that has been thoroughly air slaked, plaster, or some such preparation, that will cover the leaves, for I believe that the alkaline properties have but little if anything to do with the protection afforded, the mere covering of the leaves being the end to be sought. While liming the plants (and they should be kept constantly covered until the eighth or tenth leaf is developed,) look occasionally for the large black bug, for if destroyed at this period, when copulating, you may anticipate myriads that would otherwise appear later in the season. When the vines have obtained the eighth or tenth leaf, look carefully beneath the leaves and destroy every egg you may then find deposited, which otherwise would hatch about the time of the setting of the fruit—to the injury of both vine and fruit.

If the season should prove a wet one, do not be surprised if the vines should shed a portion of their young squashes somewhere from the 1st to the 20th of August; after which, they will rally and keep vigorously growing, later than the Marrow, or until frost. Though the crop will generally be protected by hard shells, yet handle them with care, and store in a dry, warm place as soon as possible after they are picked from the vines. If you desire a very dry squash, begin to cook as soon as they are gathered, but if you would prefer one less dry, but sweeter and richer flavored, do not commence using them much before the close of November."

### Raising Potatoes.

Shall we plant small potatoes or large, whole potatoes or sets? Vegetable physiology says: plant large or at least well-matured potatoes, and nothing else. And this for the very good reason that the fleshy part of the tuber is designed to feed the young plants and to give them a vigorous start before they are compelled to get their food from the earth. Small potatoes, or an eye with only a small piece of tuber attached, can not afford the young plants nourishment enough.

Now, so far as the vigorous growth of the plant is concerned, and its flowering and fruiting above ground, this is undoubtedly true. But it is contended by many skillful experimenters that for the formation of tubers, the opposite is true. Dr. Lindley, a high authority, is quoted as saying: "I have proved by a series of numerous experiments, that the weight of potatoes per acre is greater, under equal circumstances, from sets than from whole tubers, by upwards of from seven hundred weight to three tons per acre." Yet, it is not true that small potatoes are better than large ones, for they often throw up numerous small succulent shoots which produce only small tubers. The practice now widely prevalent of using good, medium-sized potatoes, and cutting them into two or more pieces, is probably the best of all methods.

It is stated as a fact—and if so it is instructive—

that the eyes on the remote end of the tuber produce earlier potatoes than those from the middle, or the root end; and that the difference in the time of their maturing a crop is equal to ten days or a fortnight. Market gardeners in England and some in this country turn this to account. They cut their potatoes into pieces, using the buds at the extremity for the earliest crop, and the others for a succession.

### Deep Planting and a Second Crop of Peas.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

Last Spring I planted some peas in the usual manner with a hoe. Near by, on the same plot, I plowed a pretty deep furrow and after strewing in the peas covered them with the next furrow, plowed one without peas and strewed them in the third furrow, and so continued. Upon comparison of the two plots I found that those covered with the plow yielded the most, continued the longest in bearing, and did not require staking. I also found that where I had harvested a crop of early peas and sowed the ground over with Russia turnips, a second crop of peas came up and matured among the turnips, thus suggesting that after any early crop is secured a late sowing of peas may be put in, to good advantage.

Portage Co., O.

L. HUMPHREY.

REMARK.—Peas very often do best when deeply covered, and generally admit of deeper covering than most other seeds. We are unprepared, however, to say that as a general thing very deep covering of this crop is best.—Ed.

### New Mode of Preparing Ground for Carrots.

J. A. Haywood, Middlesex Co., Mass., sends to the *Agriculturist* a description of his manner of preparing the ground for the cultivation of carrots, which he has tried, and prefers to the usual mode. The ground for the seed-bed is usually plowed several times. At the last plowing a "side-hill plow" is used, which, of course, turns all the furrows over in the same direction. After every four or five furrows are plowed, it is thoroughly raked, the raker standing in the last furrow, and drawing all the loose stones, lumps and rubbish into it; when another strip is plowed and raked as before. By this method the necessity of trampling the ground is avoided, and the surface is left clean, level, and light.

### Don't Buy Guano at all.

Unless you are sure of getting the pure, genuine Peruvian, and that only. This is a broad, but needed caution now. There are, perhaps, one or two other brands that, in rare instances, it might pay to buy, but there are so many worthless humbugs, called "guanos," that the safest way for the mass of farmers is, to avoid danger even. Some of the poorest "guanos" in market are backed up by the strongest possible certificates, recommendations, analyses, etc. The Peruvian has been tried, and its worth established, and it may be used profitably, though we wish even that could be dispensed with, until the owners were compelled to sell it on more accommodating terms. We owe them no favors.

BASKET WILLOW FOR FENCES.—To the inquiries of A. A. French, La Salle Co., Ill., we answer, that we have little faith in the utility of any species of willow as a hedge plant. Being naturally a swamp plant, it would die of thirst in many situations, and the labor required to "whip-in" the sprouts would suffice to make a much more durable structure.



### Movement of Bees About to Swarm.

We have received from a gentleman in Forsyth Co., N. C., a lengthy and interesting chapter respecting bees and their habits. We have only room for the following extract, appropriate to the season: "When the time for *swarming* arrives, which, with us, lasts from about the middle of June to the 4th of July, I watch the insiders every day, and if I discover a *bee* in *great haste* work its way from comb to comb, I at once suspect that there is a swarm pending. These I call *runners*; they lose no time, and are perfectly heedless of every obstacle. They press forward until they get out of my sight. If this motion is repeated by others in pretty quick succession, I know that there is a swarm pending. It is then very interesting to closely observe these insiders. The runners *increase in numbers* from time to time; they at length succeed in arousing the attention of all the insiders, and the entire hive gets into apparent confusion—to such a degree that you can scarcely recognize a separate bee. Then it is time to close your shutter, for the young swarm at once pours out at the hole of the hive. I do not, generally, remain at the glass during all this time; but as soon as I feel satisfied that a young swarm is forthcoming, I close the shutter, and prepare my new hive, etc. Very often, at this state of things, I call my family, and point out to them the hive that I expect to swarm; but, as they cannot discover any movement on the outside that appears to warrant my assertion, they jest me, and say that I have given a false alarm. But before they are yet done speaking, out pours the young swarm.

The conclusion drawn from these runners is, that they either have been dispatched by the *queen*, to give notice that she wishes to turn out with a new colony; and that they do not stop on their errand, till they have accomplished their purpose, or they have taken it upon themselves to arouse the young swarm to leave the old hive. Certain it is, that it sometimes requires many hours to effect their purpose. Four years since, I observed these runners to commence their operations about noon; they labored diligently all the afternoon, but could not effectually arouse the whole swarm. On the following day I was necessarily from home, and on my return in the evening, was much gratified to learn that said hive had thrown out a large swarm.

### Hiving Bees from a Chimney or Hollow Tree.

In answer to inquiries from correspondents of the *American Agriculturist*, as to the best way of doing this, Mr. Quinby sends the following:

When a swarm enters a chimney, if a board be immediately placed over the top, they will cluster on the under side of it. It may then be turned over, and a hive set over them, which they will readily enter, and they can be brought to the ground. But if they have combs started they will not voluntarily leave them, and if they are out of reach, it will seldom pay to dislodge them. There seems to be no other way but removing a portion of the chimney near their locality, and then, quieting them with a little tobacco smoke while the combs are removed. The combs containing brood may be put, with the bees on them, as near as possible, in a natural position, in a hive bottom up—the bees will soon fasten them—when it may be turned over. Unless late in the season, but few combs containing honey need to be put in.

They are usually taken from a tree with much less trouble. Bring the tree to the ground as

easily as possible; blow tobacco smoke among them to keep them quiet; with an ax or saw cut in each side of the bees, and split out a portion of the shell; then remove the combs as in the other case. Frequently most of the bees will creep away from the combs during the operation, and form a cluster. They can be readily taken off with a tin dipper, and deposited in the hive after all the rest is done. They should stand a few hours, that all the scattered bees may get to the hive; and be removed to the stand early in the morning or at night

### Feeding Working Cattle in Spring.

To the Editor of the *American Agriculturist*:

I have a way of feeding cattle when they first begin to work in the Spring, which seems to agree with them, and so of course it suits me. They need grain when they are put to hard work, as much as a farmer needs pork or beef, and if they don't get it, then you don't get the work they might do if they were treated reasonably. But I find my cattle appear to feel a good deal as I do when warm weather comes on. Meat and hearty food don't seem to relish without something green along with it. Pork and potatoes will do for a "stand-by," but I'm always in a great hurry for spinage or some garden "sass" to help along with, and if I can't get it, my food makes me dumpish and stupid. I think it is a good deal so with the cattle. They'll eat the corn or meal, but it don't seem to be exactly the thing for warm weather, and I've noticed that after eating plenty of it, they acted in the afternoon just as I felt when I had nothing but hearty food for dinner. So I have, for some years past, given them a good mess of potatoes, cut up small, to eat with their meal. They appear to relish it well, and I think it keeps their blood cool, and makes them more cheerful and active before the plough.

JONATHAN.

### Crop and Fruit Prospects in Maryland.

To the Editor of the *American Agriculturist*:

The Spring has been uncommonly propitious to wheat. It escaped the very frequent injury of being thrown out and root killed by Spring freezing and thawing, and the warm, wet weather has pushed the young plants forward so rapidly as to bid defiance to the fly. A week ago we began to fear that the growth of the straw would be too rapid, but happily, a cold northwesterly wind set in, and blew for a week, chilling the air to the freezing point, and thoroughly drying the surface of the ground. No change could have been more desirable for the advantage of wheat. To-day we have a southerly wind, with rain, but the thermometer stands only at 42°. This is grand weather; and there seems to be good reason to hope that the *Goon Bees* intends to give us a bountiful crop, which we much need here. Our fear now is, of the red weevil. I do not know whether you have this pest in New-York, as well as Midge and Canada Thistle, but last year it destroyed most of the wheat in this neighborhood. Fortunately, the sphere of operation of this destroyer is not large.

We have great promise of fruit. The peach trees are in blossom, but the fruit does not appear to have been injured by the recent cold. Though it is not true that dry cold will not kill blossoms, it requires a very severe degree of it to do so. Snow and sleet are the common destroyers. Should I have such peaches as I had last year, it would be worth your while to come from New-York to partake of them. Some beautiful

late Crawfords, that measured eleven inches and a half in circumference, and almost bursted with their syrupy juice, would have made fine pictures for the *Agriculturist*. This variety, however, is a shy bearer, and most of the peaches rot before maturity. They are invaluable for a family, but scarcely worth raising for market. They may do better elsewhere.

Did you ever hear of a peach tree that bore three several kinds of peaches in a year, one crop coming to maturity after another? MARYLAND.

Falston, Harford Co., Md., April 11, 1859.

[We do not remember to have heard of triple-crop peach trees, but in our last volume we published well-authenticated accounts of apple trees which disported themselves in this way. Our brother Editor will accept our thanks for his kind invitation to come and see, and, of course, eat, some of those peaches at his farm retreat. The spirit (and appetite) will be willing, at least.—Ed.]

For the *American Agriculturist*.

### Early and Late Seasons—The Present Season.

Nothing is more common than to hear people observe, "this season is one, two, or three weeks later than usual;" or, it is "one, two, or three weeks more forward than I ever knew it." But ask them for the data on which they make these assertions, and you will generally find that they have none to give—it is mere *guess*, or a matter of *feeling* on their part.

In order to ascertain whether a season is earlier or later, the same plants, shrubs, trees, &c., in the same localities and under the same circumstances, should be observed from year to year, otherwise the observations made will be very inaccurate. For example: April 3d, this year, I noticed a horse-chestnut just beginning to burst its leaf buds. On the 14th some of its leaves were about three inches long. Yet other horse-chestnuts, standing not over 30 to 100 feet from this tree, on the same kind of soil, and with the same exposure, are from one to two weeks later in leafing out. Now, had my observations been based one year on the earliest leafing tree, and the second year on the latest, I should have said the latter season was two weeks later than the former, although the seasons were really exactly the same.

Again: certain trees will be one or two weeks earlier in leafing or blooming, in two different seasons, while other trees may be later, merely showing, that although the first part of the Spring was more advanced than usual, the middle part of it was not, and the close of it was even later! This is the case, in some respects, this year. I observed the crocus in full bloom on the 6th March; the syringa and other early shrubs began to leaf on the 11th, and the weeping willow on the 17th. In the Spring of 1853, the willow began to leaf on the 24th March, and in 1858 on the 30th, and yet in these years my peach trees came into bloom on the 17th of April, while on this day of writing (the 18th), not a single bloom can I find on a tree, nor is there any appearance that any will be out for five or seven days yet to come, although the early shrubs and willows are seven days earlier in leafing than they were in 1853, and thirteen days earlier than last year. The apricot is three days later this year than last in bursting its first blossoms, but the full bloom of the trees is about the same time respectively.

I might mention a greater difference in some other shrubs and trees, in different seasons; but the above is sufficient to show the importance of looking at the same things from year to year, in the same locality, if one would make reliable comparisons. When living at Kingsbridge, just north of

the city, I noticed a large gooseberry bush would leaf out about the same time in the Spring, from year to year. It grew out of the foot of a neighboring field wall, with a southern exposure, and was protected from the north and west winds by a high hill. But other gooseberry bushes not thus protected would vary in leafing out, more or less, every Spring.

A. B. ALLEN.

New-York, April 18, 1859.

### Better Prospects for Farmers.

We would not encourage any false hopes, or say a word to lead farmers or others to relax the strict economy which has been impelled, or compelled by the depressed financial condition of the country, for the past year. Still, we think, so far as we can observe and study the "signs of the times," from an advantageous point of observation, there is much to encourage the hope that a more prosperous state of affairs lies but a little way ahead of us. The use we would now make of this is, to encourage farmers to a more extended and thorough cultivation of various crops, the present Spring. The season bids fair to be a favorable one. Prices of produce are, in the main, higher than they have been for some time past, and will probably increase still further. Let every one make an effort to plant or sow an acre or two more than they had intended, and to till those crops already planned for, with more care. The extra produce thus secured may be a make-weight to turn the scale in favor of future prosperity.

### Test the Seed Corn Before Planting.

Of repeated suggestions for saving and keeping seed corn have been given in this journal. But whether these have been followed or not, it is well to make a preliminary test of corn, and of all other seeds which sometimes fail to vegetate. This is easily done. Select from the mass enough to be a fair sample, and plant in a warm situation, or in a box of earth, kept suitably warm and moist. An examination of the specimens, even before coming up, will show whether they are in a sprouting condition. Better far to do this, than to make a similar experiment on a five or ten acre field, and only learn of a bad result when too late to be remedied.

### Good Agricultural Premiums.

We are almost daily receiving, from officers and committees of agricultural and horticultural Societies, propositions for taking large numbers of copies of the *American Agriculturist*, to be given out as premiums at the next agricultural Exhibitions. Nearly 500 copies will probably be given by a single Society. We are pleased with this fact—not because of any personal advantage, for, as stated last year, copies thus presented are, on the whole, unprofitable; and further, we cannot compete with journals got up at less cost in proportion to the subscription price. Still, the practice is an excellent one. A living premium, extending through a whole year, will do more to awaken and keep up an interest in agricultural improvements, than any money or other premiums, received but once, can possibly do. Multitudes who receive during the year a dozen successive numbers of a good agricultural periodical, will be led to continue reading, and thinking also. We say, then, to those now arranging their premium lists for next Fall, try the experiment of giving out a hundred or two subscriptions to some good journal devoted to those interests your Society seeks

to promote. You will find them not only satisfactory to recipients, but productive of great good.

### Out-Door Whitewash—A Better Wanted.

We have already given a capital in-door whitewash, but have sought in vain to find one which we could confidently recommend for fences and other outside work. Numerous recipes have gone the rounds of the papers, but each one seemed to be defective as regards their capability of withstanding rains. The one most highly commended, is made by adding sulphate of zinc to the common lime wash; but in this, if the sulphuric acid leave the zinc oxide to unite with the lime, we have sulphate of lime (plaster of paris) formed, which, though partially insoluble, is still slightly so, and will be gradually washed off. It would be as well to use calcined (burned) plaster, at first for the entire wash. After sundry inquiries, we applied to Mr. Saunders, house painter, at Flushing. He says he has tried various recipes with no satisfaction; but after some experience with it, he can, with considerable confidence, recommend the following as

#### A GOOD OUT-DOOR WHITEWASH.

Take unslaked lime and put it into a bucket with about as much water as will be required in use. Then throw in about half a pound of tallow for a peck of lime. As the lime slakes, the heat will melt the tallow, when it is to be thoroughly stirred in—the stirring to be repeated frequently during use if any grease rises to the surface. No definite experiments have been made to determine the exact weight of tallow for a given weight of lime. Impure or rancid lard, oil, or other grease, may be used instead of tallow.

The philosophy of the process is, that the oily material incorporated into the whitewash will prevent its being dissolved by rains. Any further definite information respecting this or other preparations, which the readers of the *American Agriculturist* can present, will be gladly received.

### Water Pipes of Hydraulic Cement.

A dozen or more inquiries, recently received, will be answered by the following article which we published in the *Agriculturist* for May, 1856. Mr. Henderson, of Bowling-Green, Va., put down in the Spring of 1855, some 600 feet of pipe, 1½ inches in diameter, for the purpose of conveying water from a spring to the barn-yard. He used for the purpose 10 barrels of cement, which cost \$15, or \$1 50 per barrel, at the Rockbridge mill.

His method of constructing the pipe is as follows: The dry cement is thoroughly mixed with an equal quantity of sharp sand, and portions of it made into mortar, only as fast as required for use. For a mould, two pieces of two-inch plank are taken, say four inches in width, and six feet in length. These are hollowed out on one side, so that when placed together, a hole would be left through the centre. They are then put down edgewise in the bottom of the ditch where the pipe is to remain, but are set apart three or four inches, so as to leave a suitable space for the mortar between them. They are kept apart by another small end-piece of plank, rounded upon its two edges to fit the hollows in the two side pieces. This forms a kind of open trough or mould, six feet long and four inches deep, having the ground for the bottom; the hollow plank for the sides, the last piece of pipe formed, for one end, and the small end-piece for the other.

Through the centre of the end-piece a hole is bored, of the size of the internal bore of the pipe. Through this hole a round, smooth, wooden rod

is thrust, which is continued along the middle of the mould, and into the hole in the last piece of pipe formed. When thus arranged, the mortar, just prepared, is poured in, and soon becomes hard. As soon as the mortar is set, the rod is drawn out carefully, leaving a smooth round hole.

The side pieces are then taken off, and moved along for another six feet. These may be kept in place by the sides of the ditch, if it be of the proper width; but it is better to prepare a couple of iron clamps, say like a wide plow clevis, which can be set down over them to keep them from falling outward, and taken up when the side pieces are to be moved.

The whole process is very simple, and can be rapidly performed, and we should judge, quite cheaply. As soon as the whole pipe is finished, the water may be let in, but the pipe should be allowed to harden some two weeks or so, before much pressure is added.

The method of making the pipe is quite simple and cheap. Mr. H. states, that in his own town, as well as in Rockbridge, it has been extensively used for several years, and is very highly esteemed. He has seen several instances where water is conveyed from half a mile to a mile, with a heavy pressure.

### The Grain Bushel Measure.\*

*Its Capacity—Mode of Ascertaining the Bushel Contents of a Box, and the Size of a Box or Bin to hold a given number of Bushels.*

Our grain bushel contains 2,150 and 42-100 cubic inches, or nearly 37 2-3 quarts, or nearly 9 1-3 gallons, wine measure. The wine or water gallon holds 231 and the wine quart 57½ cubic inches.

A cubic foot (or a box 1 foot each way) contains 1,728 cubic inches. A bushel, therefore, holds 1 cubic foot and 422.42 inches over.

A cubic foot (1,728 inches,) is to a bushel measure (2,150.42 inches,) very nearly in the ratio of 45 to 56:

1. *To find the contents of a box in bushels.*—Multiply the length, breadth and height together, to get the number of cubic feet; multiply the number of feet thus obtained, by 45, and divide the product by 56, and you have the number of bushels it will contain. (Note—If the box cannot be measured in even feet, multiply its length, breadth, and height in inches, and divide by 1,728, to get the cubic feet.) *Example*—Suppose a box 6 feet long by 5½ feet wide, and 4 feet deep. Multiplying 6, 5½ and 4 together, gives 132 cubic feet. This multiplied by 45, gives 5,940, which, divided by 56, gives 106 and 1-14th bushels.

2. *To find the size of a box needed for a given number of bushels.*—Multiply the number of bushels by 56, and divide the product by 45, which will give the number of cubic feet required. The length, or width, or height of the box will depend upon the other two dimensions. *Example*—In a bin 8 feet long by 7 feet wide, what height will be required for 420 bushels of grain? Multiply 420 by 56, and dividing the product by 45, gives 522½ as the number of cubic feet required. Each foot in height of the bin (8x7) contains 56 cubic feet. Divide the 522½ cubic feet required, by 56 feet, gives 9½ feet for height needed. If the box be 9½ feet long, and 7 feet high, it would, of course, need to be 8 feet wide.

\*Our bushel measure is the old "Winchester bushel," which was in use in England until 1826, at which time the Imperial Bushel was introduced. The Winchester Bushel contains 2,150.42 cubic inches, and the Imperial Bushel 2,218.192 inches, so that 32 Imperial Bushels very nearly equal 33 Winchester Bushels.



### A Dwelling House.

In October last, (Vol. xvii, p. 297,) we gave the **GROUND PLAN** of the Dwelling House of one of the associate editors of the *Agriculturist*. This has called out numerous inquiries from all parts of the country for further particulars. Here is one like many others. G. P., of Harmon, Ohio, writes: "That plan happens to be just the thing wife and I have been looking for these years past. Can not you give us the elevation? Please favor us as much as you can in reference to it. It is the plan, so far as I understand it, upon which I wish to build next season. . . ." In response to these calls we sent to the proprietor for a pencil sketch and photograph of the elevation, which we have had engraved, and present herewith. We also reintroduce the **GROUND PLAN** and description. The house as it now stands, is not *precisely* like the plan, some few slight modifications having been recently introduced, not important to be specified here.

The picture would have been much more beautiful could we have shown the trees, shrubbery, walks, etc., in front of and surrounding the house, but these would have obscured the form of the structure, which is the thing most desired. This plan, like all others we give, from time to time, is of course merely *suggestive*. No two persons would follow the same plan in all the details.

This house is in the Italian order of architecture, with a flat, metallic roof, wide cornices, supported with brackets, etc.; but any other external style may just as well be adopted, with even the same internal arrangement. This one is of wood, ceiled on three sides with boards running horizontally, and clap-boarded in the rear. The part containing the parlor, hall, dining-room and bedrooms, is two stories high; the library and kitchen, are a story and a-half. The rooms on the first floor are ten-and-a-half feet high between joists; those on the second floor, are nine feet.

In regard to its cost, we have already remarked that the work was all done by the day, the bills were not added up, and they are not now at hand. A rough estimate makes the cost not far from \$3,500. The cost may be made much less or greater according to the location and price of materials, the kind of materials, style of finish, etc., together with the profits paid to contractors.

#### GROUND PLAN.

The veranda, in front, is nine feet wide, and, being furnished with settees, and shaded by honeysuckles and the American ivy, furnishes pleasant resort throughout almost every day in Summer. The hall is spacious, and opens, through folding-doors, into a parlor on one side, and a library on the other. When these doors are thrown open, the view across the suite of rooms, from one bay-window to the other, is quite agreeable and striking. The wood-work of the parlor is painted white, and the walls are covered with light-colored paper. The hall is oak-grained, and furnished with oaken chairs and table, and staircase. The library is finished in butternut-wood, oiled and varnished. The book-cases, of which there are four, are built into the walls on two opposite sides. The walls are painted a soft pearl grey. The stair-case in the hall, is left open, underneath, allowing a free passage into the dining-room and back-hall.

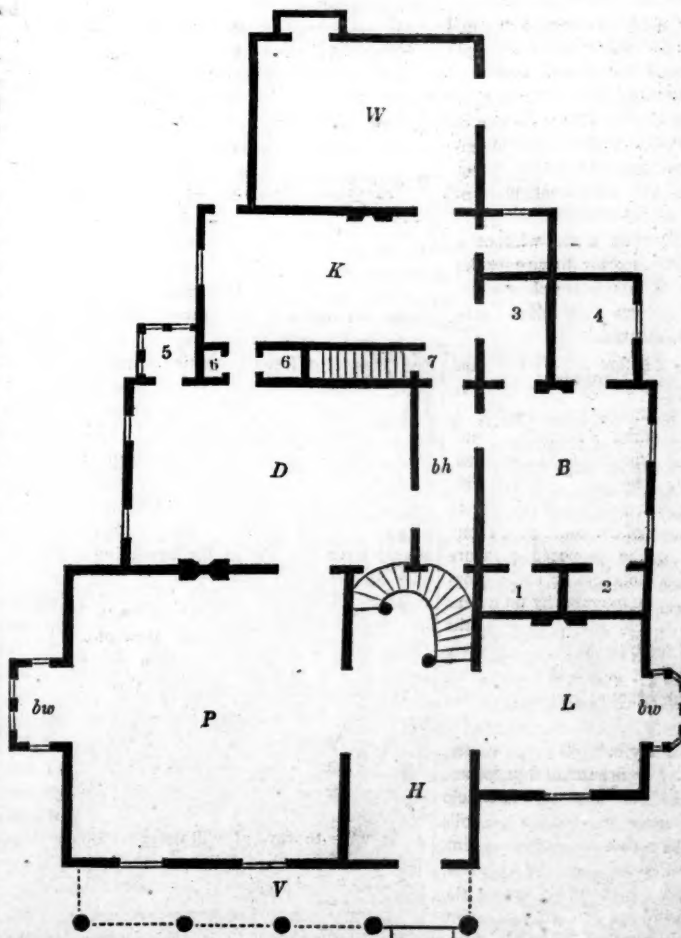


The living-room is used also for a dining-room. With piano, sofa, easy chairs, book-case for children, and engravings on the walls, it is made one of the pleasantest apartments in the house. This is the center of the home. The bed-room is provided with two ample closets, numbered 1 and 2, and with a bath-room, number 3. A child's room

number 4, also adjoins it. No 5 is a covered porch for entering the living-room. No. 6, is a "china-closet," on each side of the passage from the living-room to the kitchen, which passage is inclosed with two doors to shut out offensive odors and noises from the kitchen. No. 7, is the flight of back chamber stairs, with stairs to the cellar beneath. No. 8, is the pantry and store-room. Behind the kitchen is the wood-house, a part of which is so arranged as to be used for a kitchen in the Summer. Every room in the house is supplied with a fire-place, to be used in the Spring and Fall. In Winter, the house is warmed by a furnace, and is ventilated by the fire-places and by Arnott's chimney-valves in the chimney breast near the ceiling.

The Chamber Plan is essentially like the first story, there being bed-rooms over the parlor, living-room, and bed-room, below. These are each furnished with ample closets, a thing which should never be overlooked. The upper hall makes a pleasant room for reading or sewing, or for keeping house-plants. There are two sleeping rooms, for servants, over the kitchen in rear.

The Cellar is divided into two independent parts.



P—Parlor, 16x20 feet. D—Dining and living-room, 14x18 feet. K—Kitchen, 12x17 feet. L—Library, 12x13 feet. B—Bedroom, 12x14 ft. H—Hall, (front.) bh—Hall, (back.) V—Veranda. W—Wood-house.

bw—Bay Windows. 1—Closet. 2—Closet. 3—Bath-room. 4—Child's room.

5—Covered Porch to Living-room. 6, 6—China-closets. 7—Back stairs. 8—Pantry & store-room.

ments, one for vegetables, fruits, etc., and one for furnace, and coal or wood. The coal or wood is under the library, and is easily thrown in through the window.

### Preparation of Ground for a Country Residence.

In the March No. of the *Agriculturist* (p. 80), we gave some rules for "Choosing the site of a house." A few words now on that topic, and we will speak of preparing the ground for planting.

It is generally recommended to choose a spot already clothed more or less with forest trees. There are advantages, truly, in having such a basis for one's future operations. Life is short, and it takes nearly one generation for some newly planted trees to attain any considerable size. And then, it saves a deal of trouble to buy one's trees already grown. This is all very well, if you can find such spots, combining also the other requisites of which we have spoken. But these sites are not often to be had. And where they are not, we would choose one possessing the other more important qualities, and proceed at once to make the spot all that skill and labor could accomplish. Trees well planted and cared for, grow very much faster than those which are neglected, and they develop a higher beauty than can be found in the tall, naked denizens of forest. We, on the whole, advise lazy folks to buy their trees ready made; but industrious, enterprising people will find greater enjoyment in selecting and planting their own, and watching their growth from year to year. Around such trees a multitude of interesting associations cluster. They are *your* trees; you chose them, planted and watered and pruned and protected them in their youth; you watched from year to year their spreading limbs and thickening shade, until at length you come to feel that they are a part of your family; your own history is bound up in theirs; they share your affection almost equally with the children of your household. Indeed, for our own part, we should shed few tears on being obliged to build upon a site without a single tree upon it, so far superior do we consider the pleasure of creating an attractive place of residence, to that of sitting down with folded hands upon one already manufactured.

But now to the subject before us. If the land lying round the chosen site for the house, is not in the right shape for convenience and beauty, it must be graded. But grading is sometimes unwisely done. Not every knoll should be leveled, not every hollow should be filled; if left untouched, they may add more life and variety to the scene than any stroke of art could give them. If some retired part of the proposed pleasure grounds contains a few boulders or rocks cropping out in a picturesque manner, by no means disturb them, but rather add a few more of the same sort, plant a few ferns and mosses and vines and native trees among them, and this little wild scene will heighten the effect of the surrounding cultivation.

The ground immediately in front of the house, and on the side, devoted to ornamental purposes, should be graded into a smooth lawn. It should partake of the air of refinement which prevails within doors, and form a sort of connecting link between the house and the neighboring grounds. In grading, it is very important to preserve the top-soil. Instead of carrying off to fill up some low corner, remove it carefully aside to some convenient spot, until the sub-soil is plowed and scraped and brought into the required shape;

then return the good soil to its proper place on the surface.

At this point, if not before grading, examine the ground in every part to see whether it needs draining. If there are any wet, springy places, any spots covered with sorrel, moss, or coarse, wiry grasses, there, of course, ditching is a necessity. You may plant trees, shrubs, and flowers in such a soil, and they may live, but they will lead a miserable existence. Indeed, there is hardly any land which would not be improved, as a residence, by underdraining. A surface always dry is greatly conducive to health as well as comfort. Indeed, we would advise thorough draining, at least of all ground near the dwelling, in almost if not in every case.

Next in order, comes a thorough breaking up of the soil, by sub-soil plowing or trenching, according to the size of the premises. Does any one ask, what need of all this trouble? There is no need of it, unless you want your trees to grow, and your sward to hold its freshness throughout the heats of summer. If, however, you are so particular as to desire this, then thrust down your plow-point or your long spade into the yellow soil with a strong arm. And let a little manure go with it, not so much for the sake of making the soil very rich, as of making it warm and porous to a considerable depth. If you manure the ground over much, it may produce coarse and too luxuriant grass; if you enrich only the surface, you will get a thrifty growth of grass in the Spring, but barrenness in mid-summer. Trench it, and make it moderately rich throughout its whole depth, and you will get a fine, smooth turf, which will defy the dog-star and the severest drouths.

The importance of this thorough preparation of the soil can hardly be over-estimated. Most persons, in constructing a rural home, lay out all their spare money on their house, outbuildings, fences, furniture, and equipage; leaving the work of preparing their ground for gardening purposes until the last thing; it is then done in haste, and, of course, imperfectly. The best soil is often scraped off and covered up, and the poor sub-soil is used for planting in. Alas, for the Arcadian scene which is expected to spring up on that ground! The trees and plants set out will not grow, and the grass starts feebly only to die out in mid-summer. The proprietor loses his patience and cries out: "The seedsman must have palmed off worthless seeds upon me; the nurseryman has sold me sickly trees; my gardener is a num-skull; Providence is my enemy; horticulture and country-life are a humbug!" Now, who can not see that the fault lay in his own careless and niggardly management? To succeed well, he should have laid out at the beginning a liberal sum for preparing his soil in the best possible manner. Then, the roots of his trees, vines, and plants would have grown vigorously, and furnished him a constant source of delight. It is impossible to improve the soil properly, after it is once occupied with trees and plants: the work should be done at the outset, and be thoroughly done. Well, says a judicious writer: "We hope we shall never again hear it said, 'I will plant my trees now, and improve the ground afterwards, as I have leisure.' Would it not be as wise to say, 'I will erect my house now, and hereafter, when I have leisure, I will dig the cellars and construct the foundations.'"

Hood aptly says: An irritable person lies like a hedge-hog rolled up the wrong way, tormenting himself with his own prickles.

### Cows Slinking their Calves.

To the Editor of the *American Agriculturist*:

Quite a serious loss is sustained by many of the farmers in this town, in consequence of the cows slinking their calves. It seems to be a well ascertained fact that when one cow slinks her calf, it proves contagious, and others follow her bad example. Can you Mr. Editor, or any of your numerous readers, suggest a remedy that will stay this unnatural propensity and save the hard working farmer from serious loss?..... I have just heard that 32 cows in one dairy have this Winter, in quick succession, slunk their calves. The owner estimates his loss at \$500. Blooming Grove, Orange Co., N. Y.

REMARKS.—We can not enlighten our correspondent with any certainty as to the cause of these cow abortions, nor give any particular remedy for them. We have known instances before which appeared for the time to be both epidemic, and contagious—the contagion being by sympathy. The grass on which they feed, or the hay made of that grass has been ascribed as the cause: that is, some peculiar quality affecting the grass for the season. Accident sometimes causes abortion in one cow of a herd, and from her it will go through the herd, with few exceptions. When such cases occur, we know of no remedy so sure as to scatter, and remove them to different farms. In Mr. Flint's new and valuable work on "Milch Cows and Dairy Farming," we find the following remarks on this subject: "Cows are sometimes liable to slink their calves; and this usually takes place about the middle of their pregnancy. To avoid the evil consequences, so far as possible, they should be watched; and, if a cow is found to be uneasy and feverish, or wandering about away from the rest of the herd, and apparently longing for something she can not get, she ought to be taken away from the others. If a cow slink her calf while in pasture with others they will be liable to be affected in the same way."

In many cases, physicing will quiet the cow's excitement in the condition above described, and prove of essential benefit. A dose of one pound of Epsom or Glauber's salts, and one ounce of ginger, mixed in a pint of thick gruel should be given first, to be immediately followed by the salts, in a little thinner gruel.

When a cow slinks her calf, there is great risk in breeding from her. She is liable to do the same again. But when the slinking is caused by sudden fright or over-exertion, or any offensive matter, such as blood or the dead carcasses of animals, this result is not so much to be feared."

### "In-and-In Breeding."

To the Editor of the *American Agriculturist*:

A writer in the March number of your journal (p. 75), to illustrate a position in regard to in-and-in breeding, makes reference to Ohio cattle thus: "For instance, when the Scioto Valley Cattle Company brought out their first importation of Shorthorns in 1834, among which were four or five very fine animals, strongly in-bred with Mr. Bates' celebrated Duchess blood, would not that Company have done better to have bred that blood closely in-and-in for a while, the bulls and cows together, instead of crossing their cows, which possessed it, with the coarser and less highly bred bulls, they bought of Whitaker and others."

Without intending to interfere with the argument of the writer, I beg respectfully to ask him to reconsider what he has stated about "the coarser and less highly bred bulls," etc. The Whitaker bulls of that importation were Duke of York (1941), Prince Charles (2461), for George Renick—and Greenholme Experiment (2075). I



have never before heard it claimed that these animals were coarse, and it is very certain that their reputation as stock getters has been equal to any bulls, we have ever had in Ohio. Were it not for the impropriety of mentioning individual herds, reference might be made to many well-known animals among their descendants in proof of this.

The Bates Bull, Young Waterloo (2817), was equal to the above, but not superior. The same may be said of Comet Halley (1855), bred by Mr. Maynard, Acmon (1606), bred by Mr. Raine, and Barnby (1679), imported for Wm. Renick, and bred by Mr. Bower.

Young Waterloo and Earl of Darlington were, I think, the only Bates bulls, but neither of them was a Duchess, both being of the Princess tribe. I do not think it by any means certain that "Duchess" blood would be injured by an infusion of Whitaker blood. It appears that Mr. Bates himself did not think so, for his Duchess 35th, illustrated in 3rd Vol. of Eng. Herd Book, was got by Gambier (2046), bred by Whitaker—Duchess 38th, also bred by Bates, was got by Whitaker's celebrated bull Norfolk (2377), who was sire of imp. Prince Charles (2461), and Duke of Cleveland (1937), and by Mr. Bates' out of Duchess 28th, was got by Whitaker's bull Bertram (1716).

BUCKEYE.

[In order to have his reply, if he had any, accompany the above, we sent a proof slip to "Cattle Breeder," and received the following, too late for the April No., when it should have appeared. Ed.]

In reply to the above paper of Buckeye, I explain: That in my remarks on the continuous breeding together of the Bates stock of the Ohio importation of 1834 after their arrival in 'his country, I did not intend to reflect either upon the purity in blood, or the quality of the stock of the other breeders, which came out with them; but simply to intimate that as the style of Mr. Bates' stock was a fixed and marked one, giving character and individuality to his herd, it would have been wise to have so continued it in the fine climate and on the richer American soil, to which they had been newly introduced.

Taken together, that importation of 1834 was a remarkably good collection of cattle—as a whole for its numbers—probably equal to any ever imported into the United States. Yet, when we undertake to analyze the blood of animals in their pedigrees, we must look to see whether, on the principles of physiology in breeding, if objectionable blood is found, such blood will not tell, or "crop out"—to use a geological term—in the appearance of their progeny. Thus, in Duke of York (1941) he, through his sire Frederick (1060), has a dash of the "Galloway cross" in him, although his pedigree back of Frederick is of the first quality. Prince Charles (2461) was without taint in his pedigree. Greenholme Experiment (2075), like Duke of York, through Frederick, the same sire, had a taint of Galloway; Comet Halley (1855) the same. Acmon's pedigree was apparently perfect in Shorthorn blood, but had several widely different crosses in it: so with Barnby (1679).

These were all good bulls, and, with the exception of the small fraction of Galloway cross—not enough to do much hurt—in those mentioned as having it, unexceptionable in blood and pedigree. They were also fine bulls in style and appearance. The Bates cattle, proper, of that importation, were the bulls, Earl of Darlington (1944) and Young Waterloo (2817); and the cows, Rose of Sharon and Teeswater, all got by Belvidere (1706), the bull, which Mr. Bates has, since he obtained him, always insisted benefited his herd more than any other he ever used, and in the persistent use of whose blood his herd achieved an eminence, cer-

tainly not second to any other Shorthorn herd in England. The pedigrees of these four animals, aside from Belvidere, run back, through their dams, into some of Mr. Bates' best blood of other families, as the "Princess," in part, of which Belvidere was mainly.

I admit that my term "Duchess" was not strictly correct, for these imported Bates cattle were not of the original "Duchess" blood; but as Belvidere gave the Duchess family a great share of their recent celebrity, and his later Duchesses partook largely of his blood, although I might have made the distinction by name, the actual difference would be trifling. I beg "Buckeye" to understand, not that I intended to cast the slightest odium on the other blood of the 1834 importation, but to say that by breeding the "Bates" stock together, they would have better preserved their uniformity and distinctness, which, if good, I consider a high merit in any herd. In the way they were subsequently bred, that nice individuality for which they were distinguished in Mr. Bates' hands, was mostly lost.

As to Gambier (2046), also Bertram (1716), the bulls Mr. Bates used in a very few instances, as named by Buckeye, Mr. Bates himself always regretted those crosses—although the bulls were good ones and of high reputation—as not assisting in the object he had in view in perfecting his herd.

I have not the slightest wish to detract from the excellence of any herd of Ohio, or other Shorthorns whatever. I incidentally mentioned, as I did, the Bates stock of the 1834 importation to mark a position, which I still think a correct one, and I trust that no one will consider me as making an invidious distinction by calling the other bulls "coarser, and less highly bred," only in a comparative degree.

A CATTLE BREEDER.

Written for the American Agriculturist.—Prize Articles.

### The Dairy...V.

#### THE CHURN—ITS FORM AND CONSTRUCTION.

Of so simple a thing as a churn, most people might suppose that not a word need be said. But the experienced butter maker knows better, and each one has his preference. We have seen a great variety of churns, of every conceivable pattern—patented and not patented—and after years of examination and trial, we think about as much of a patent churn of any kind as we do of a patent bee-hive. We wouldn't have either, as a gift, and be obliged to use it. The simpler the form, and the manner of using it, the better.

There are two kinds of churn most commonly in use among butter making families and dairymen—the old time honored, upright dash-churn, and the barrel or revolving churn, both very simple in construction, and so well known as to need no description. The dash churn stands upright on its own bottom on the floor. The barrel churn stands on legs which set it up from the floor at a convenient height to work the crank turning the inside wings. As to the size, that must depend on the quantity of cream, or milk to be churned, ranging from ten gallons to a barrel and a half, which the dairyman must decide for himself. The churn should be made of thoroughly seasoned White Oak or White Ash staves. Some use White Pine, and Red Cedar; but these are both resinous woods, from which the taste or smell can scarcely be washed or worn, while oak and ash are odorless and tasteless, and capable of being kept perfectly sweet and clean—indispensable requisites in a good dairy. The dash and handle of the upright, and the crank shaft, and wings of the barrel churn, should also be of oak or ash,

since they are strong as well as clean woods. Then they should be stoutly hooped with iron, made throughout "upon honor," and well painted outside. We have seen churns with a little thermometer inserted at one end to mark the temperature of the cream while churning, and which is claimed as a decided improvement. Now, while we do not wish to damage any one's trade, we only say that this little appendage is of trifling account with any good butter maker, for two reasons. 1st: Those little cheap thermometers are poor things usually, varying several degrees from the true temperature. 2nd: A good dairyman can tell the best temperature better by his own finger; otherwise he should always have an accurate thermometer at hand, which he can at any moment plunge into the churn and get the exact temperature of the cream. To regulate this, ice, or hot water, according to the season should be at hand to govern the temperature, either of which may be kept in a tub in which the "dash" churn may stand, or applied directly by mixing with the cream in churning.

#### THE MANNER OF CHURNING.

This may seem indifferent to some, but we assure them that on it much depends, in the quality of the butter. The temperature of the season will somewhat govern the rapidity with which the dash or crank is moved. A too rapid motion of either makes the cream frothy, and brings the butter accordingly, lacking in consistence; while the slower and more regular action brings the butteraceous particles of the cream solidly together, with less globules of fixed air in them, easier to draw together in the churn, and better to work after taken out into the bowl.

Churning by hand in a large dairy, is usually considered hard work. At any rate, we always thought it so. Not only is it hard work, but patient work—no variety about it, which is a decided relief to some other occupations much more really laborious; and it is none the less so that the motion needs to be uniform and continuous from beginning to end. Therefore, churning should be done by persons of full strength, with thoughtfulness and patience about them to work uniformly throughout, from the commencement to bringing the butter. In large dairies hand churning is too expensive, unless assisted by artificial means. A common "spring pole"—a very simple affair, which any one knows how to make—can easily be rigged to lighten the work of the dash churn at least one half; while a "balance" wheel attached to the shaft of a revolving churn takes off half the strain of the wings as they strike into the cream. These may be adopted, or not, as circumstances govern.

But for large dairies, water, horse, or dog power are decidedly the best. Where it can be conveniently, and cheaply obtained, water power is preferable. Yet it must be under perfect control from freshets, and furnish a regular supply at all seasons, to be worth much; and of the facts appertaining to these requirements the dairyman must satisfy himself before attempting it. Indeed water power must be very available to make it pay, simply for churning purposes; and therefore as a rule, we would adopt the "pony" power, put up in the old fashioned bark or cider-mill principle of hitching the beast to the end of a sweep, the other end attached to an upright shaft, on which is built a cog, or spur wheel, playing into a pinion on a horizontal shaft, on which is a drum, or pulley to extend a band on to the immediate propelling power of the churn. The pony, of course, travels in a circle, which should be not less than sixteen, for the smallest pony, and need not exceed twenty-four feet for the largest horse. We



prefer this simple and efficient plan to any of the recently invented "powers" got up by the machinists, although some of them work very well in their way, and have the merit of compactness in their favor. Of "dog" power we don't think much. No dog is good for any thing for such purposes unless he will weigh near or quite a hundred pounds. We would quite as soon board a pony-horse as such a dog, with the difference, that while the horse can do a good deal of other work, the dog is little, if any thing, less than a nuisance when not churning. We do not intend to slander the dog family at large, for which we have a quite sufficient attachment; but for common farm purposes a fifteen or twenty pound terrier is better than an overgrown cur, or Newfoundland of a hundred weight avoirdupois. After all, the churning *power* must be disposed of in the way that the dairyman shall find, upon mature consideration, the most available and economical—each in his peculiar circumstances.

#### CARE OF THE BUTTER WHEN CHURNED.

The butter being well brought together in the churn, so as to be easily taken out with a wooden butter scoop, it should be put into wooden bowls of sufficient capacity to hold as much as can be thoroughly worked at once—say six to ten or twelve pounds in a mass. As soon as in the bowl, and sufficiently cooled if not enough so when taken from the churn, the milk should be rapidly worked out and poured off, so long as any quantity of it follows the ladle; the latter part of the working, with the use of pure, soft cold water to wash the butter clean. Then the butter should be thinly spread out in the bowl, and a sufficiency of *pure fine* salt, say about an ounce to the pound of butter, sprinkled over it, and worked uniformly in through the whole mass. No human hand should touch the butter—not because it is untidy, but because the hand is warm, rendering the butter *greasy*, and taking from it the *wozy* consistence which it should always retain. So, "hands off," in butter working.

As soon as the salt is well worked in, set the bowl and butter away in the dairy room in a cool place for a number of hours, eight, twelve, or twenty-four even, according to the temperature, that the salt may become well incorporated with the butter, and the briny particles disengaged from it. Then work it thoroughly over again so long as any milk or brine will run. This done, the butter may be made into rolls for immediate marketing, or packed in solid mass in good sweet oaken or ash tubs or firkins for keeping. If the tubs or firkins be not filled at once, a light sprinkling of fine salt may be laid upon it, and a clean thin cloth laid close down to the butter when packed, to prevent air getting to it; and as soon as the keg or tub is full, a strong brine of pure salt and pure soft water should be poured over it, and the cover put over to exclude the air. We are aware that some, even good butter makers do not wash their butter in water at all, and that others do not measure or weigh the salt they use; they "work the butter clean," and "salt to the taste." But we contend that the buttermilk can not be thoroughly excluded without the diluting aid of water, and unless it is excluded, it will sooner or later spoil the butter by becoming rancid; therefore washing is the surer method to thoroughly exclude the milk. As to "salting to the taste," tastes differ so materially, that unless it be for a given market the test is an uncertain one. We prefer weight and measure always, in such cases, to *guess* work.

After the butter is once packed, let it be stored in the coldest place you have—an ice house if possible. Butter ought, if well made, to keep a year.

We have eaten it at eighteen months old perfectly sweet and palatable. It will keep if it be made under all the conditions we have stated, in grass, feed, cows, milking, and manipulation. When taken from the storage room for market, the brine should be poured clean off the top, and if in tubs the covers either of cloth, or wood closely secured. If in kegs, the heads should be closely fitted in, and the hoops driven tight.

Where large quantities of butter are made, the working process by the ladle is laborious. It may perhaps be better done by a hard wood fluted roller, revolving round an iron eye secured in the center of a table of marble, or hard wood plank. This roller should be large, say 5 or 6 inches thick at the outer end, and tapering toward the center end; a loose haft of iron, with a hook at the small end to secure it to the iron eye in the plank. On the outer end of the roller a handle should project by which to work it—of course the roller revolves on this shaft which goes through it. The roller thus works in a circular form, and the butter-milk works toward the center of the table, the latter dished out and slightly inclining toward the eye aforesaid, with a hole through the table, and a bucket underneath to receive the milk and water worked out. For a large dairy such an implement is a great relief to hand labor in this important branch of the work, and which in its severity is sometimes slighted to the evident damage in the *keeping* of the butter, this oftentimes affecting its market value twenty-five to fifty per cent.

#### ARTIFICIAL, OR ORNAMENTAL ADJUNCTS TO THE BUTTER.

Some dairy people add sugar or salt-petre to lighten the flavor; others add annato, or orange carrot juice to give it color. We do not believe in any of these attractions to well made butter. Pure salt is all that is wanted to season it in the best possible manner to the taste. Every thing else in the long run pollutes it. The color will take care of itself except, perhaps, in the coldest Winter weather when it is of little account to make market butter at all. If it be pale in color, its *flavor* will sell it with ordinary customers, who generally prefer a *pure uncooked* article to one tinkered up for market with foreign ingredients.

#### A WORD AS TO THE KIND OF SALT.

As to the purity of this article there has been much controversy. Our domestic salt, as at Syracuse in New-York, the Kanawha in western Virginia, and elsewhere in other States has been condemned by many dairymen as impure, and consequently unfit for butter and cheese making. On the other hand, Chemists have pronounced them free from injurious mixtures, and perfectly good for dairy uses. We take no part in the matter. We only *insist* that all dairy salt should be pure and free from foreign admixtures of any kind. Rock salt is pure, and the great majority of our dairymen prefer such. The cost of the salt for a dairy of any size is but a small item of outlay in any event, and we advise no one to run the slightest risk by the use of an impure article when a reliable, good one can be had at a reasonable price.

#### Clean Milking.

It is sometimes forgotten that the last gill of milk drawn from the cow's udder is the best part of every milking. Careful experiments made in England show, (according to a report lately published) that "the quantity of cream obtained from the last drawn cup from most cows, exceeds

that of the first in the proportion of twelve to one." The difference in the quality also is considerable. Hence, a person who carelessly leaves but half a pint of milk undrawn, loses in reality about as much cream as would be afforded by six or eight pints at the beginning; and loses, too, that part of the cream which gives the richness and high flavor to his butter.

#### The Government Camels.

It will be recollected that an appropriation was made by Congress a few years since to import a number of camels into this country for the purpose of testing their adaptability to the climate and for use as beasts of burden, especially on the southwestern plains. A considerable number were brought from several countries bordering upon the Mediterranean, and they were mostly taken to Texas. We have from time to time seen sundry newspaper paragraphs indicating that the experiment is likely to prove successful. We hope these statements are reliable, though we have learned so much respecting the origin of newspaper and telegraphic reports emanating from Washington, in regard to agricultural matters connected with the Government, that we scarcely know what to believe. We shall be glad to hear further in regard to these camels from some of our non-interested readers residing in the localities where the animals are now in use. We can not see why camels should not thrive as well, and be as serviceable in the southern sections of this country as in a similar climate in southern Europe, southern Asia, and northern Africa. A recent number of the Galveston News (Texas), has the following statement concerning a camel in that city belonging to Mrs. Watson, and employed in carrying ship freight to and from the wharves. The statement is a *weighty* one surely:

"On the word of command being given by the native keeper, the huge animal lay down to receive his load, which consisted of five bales of hay weighing in the aggregate 1,400 lbs., firmly bound to the pannier placed upon the animals hump. At the word, the camel arose, without any apparent effort, and walked off in a stately manner through the city. We were informed that the same animal had 1,600 lbs. placed upon him, with which enormous weight he arose. They are represented as tractable and affectionate. As an example of their affection Mrs. W. informs us that a pretty white one which she had petted; would always kiss her when within kissing distance, which we think showed good taste on his part, in addition to an affectionate disposition."

Rather a hard story to "swallow" or "lift." Did the editor of the News previously test the weight of these "five bales of hay, weighing 1400 pounds?" The idea of a camel getting up with nearly three-fourths of a ton on his back, and this too "*without apparent effort*," or with any amount of effort, is putting it rather strong. Was it not a mistake of the printer? Did not the editor mean an elephant? He has probably "seen the elephant." We should like, also, to know more about that "kissing." Does the camel kneel down when he kisses a lady?

One of the most telling descriptions of "fornity" we have heard, was that of a boy who asked a Boston police officer for shelter in the Station House: "See, Cap'n, first my father died, and my mother married again, and then my mother died and my father married again, and somehow or other I don't seem to have no parents at all, nor no home, nor no nothing."



For the American Agriculturist.

### Care of Young Poultry.

Most of the early broods of chickens have now been hatched, and are claiming the care of the farmer's wife and daughters. Pains taken with them now, will be well repaid in the Summer and Fall, when the "pot-pie" smokes on the table, and returns come from those sent to market. Experience has proved cooked food to be better for young fowls, than raw meal, hastily wet just before feeding. For young chickens, curdled (lopped) milk is an excellent diet, which they eat with great apparent relish. When meal is given, it should be coarse, and well cooked. It is not necessary, however, to cook the meal for chickens after the first few weeks. Cracked corn or millet can then be easily managed by them. A liberal supply of milk curds will be found good at any stage of their growth. Great benefit, both to the fowls and fruit trees, may be derived from locating the chicken coops in the fruit yard. The active, sharp-eyed little chirpers are very quick to discover the larvæ of curculio and other destructive insects, as they emerge from the ground to commence their depredations, and scarce one will escape their scrutiny; while, in addition, such worms and insects are, in part, the natural food of fowls. I have succeeded in this way in maturing the fruit of some fine cherry trees, in good order, free from worms, where in previous years, I had failed to gather any worth speaking of, though I tried many remedies.

The "pip" or "gapes" is one of the most troublesome difficulties to be overcome in raising chickens. It is probably the result of inflammation in the wind-pipe and its branches, attended with the presence of small worms, which some suppose are the immediate cause of the disease. This inflammation may, undoubtedly, be caused by exposure of the young chickens in wet weather, or in the grass before the morning dew is off. Sometimes, also, the coop is neglected, and the bottom of it allowed to remain wet, which would be followed by the same effects. Improper food may also cause the disease. Experienced poultry breeders have recommended the use of salt with the food, as a preventive and cure for gapes. It must be used sparingly, however, or it would kill the chickens as well as the worms.

COLUMBIA CO., N. Y.

ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT, W. S. Peck, Fairfield Co., Ct., states that he has entirely prevented "gapes" in his chickens, by removing their coops from the immediate vicinity of the house, say across the road, or to the open field. Cure of this disease is difficult, and prevention is certainly desirable.

### "Those Hens."

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

I saw in a former number of the *Agriculturist*, an article headed "What is the matter with the hens?" that is why don't they supply more eggs! My answer in their behalf is, that they too often are confined in a small dry yard surrounded with a high fence—having slight shade, access to no green thing, with little to eat and less to drink—and yet they are expected by those simpler than themselves, to go on laying, at that! Oh, yes! "hens were made to lay"—they can't help themselves; eggs are probably made of heat, dirt, and sunshine! Now Mr. Editor, I have been troubled

as much as my neighbors have, about the hens. If they were permitted to range, they would do mischief; if confined, they would not lay; so, as it did not involve any important principle, I compromised—confined them in the yard, gave them enough to eat and drink, and at about 4 o'clock, every afternoon, set them free. This gave them just time enough to range wherever they would; the grasshoppers, bugs and flies were unexhausted, and before the scratching process commenced they were obliged to yield to the stronger instinct and go to roost. The experiment was entirely successful; no injury was done to the garden or grounds, but a benefit by the destruction of insects; they laid well, seemed quite content with their confinement, in view of a daily range, and it was a great pleasure to hear their cheerful notes and witness their enjoyment, when set free.

Burlington, Vt.

P.



A Poultry House.

No country establishment is complete without a poultry house. Indeed, every family in the country, whether devoted to agriculture or not, should have one. To the mechanic it is important; so it is to the merchant and professional man. No direction or rule can be given as to the size of it. If it is partly designed to supply eggs and poultry for sale, it may, of course, be proportioned to the demand there is for its products. If the products are wanted for home consumption only, the size of the family should regulate the size of the fowl-house, and the number of its tenants. These are matters which all can decide for themselves. What might answer for one family might not answer for another. Some, too, are especially fond of eggs; others care less about them. The same is true in regard to the flesh of poultry. This, also, will have its influence.

The keeping and rearing of poultry has become quite an important branch of rural economy. The subject, until within a few years, has attracted little or no attention in this country. It may, at first, be viewed as too insignificant to merit serious consideration. This is natural. Little things are frequently treated with contempt, although, in the aggregate, they assume magnitude, surpassing credulity. This is, literally, so with poultry. Because a fair stock of hens can be bought for two or three dollars, they are regarded as beneath the rank that entitles them even to kind treatment, especially if viewed in connection with expected remuneration. But, although the breeding stock of hens on a farm may be estimated at three dollars only, the fair valuation of all the hens in the country gives

them a commercial importance ranging with some of our best products.

Many persons commence house-keeping by first procuring a wife and then a house; but as this system has its inconveniences, we recommend to begin with a house. First procure the cage, then the bird. Previous, therefore, to getting a stock of poultry, provide for them a house. If it is desired to confine fowls to a yard for all or a portion of the time, it will be indispensable to their health and productiveness, to have suitable accommodations. Do not confine them in seven-by-nine yards, as some we have noticed in the country; give them room. The accommodations need not be expensive, but the fixtures should be efficient and complete, so as to secure the safety of the fowls. The houses and yards, therefore, must be constructed according to the purposes of the proprietor. He who keeps a cock and four or five hens, merely for his own supply, will require a very simple arrangement; but the proprietor who breeds for sale and profit,

as well as home use, must have a more elaborate arrangement.

Where the fowls have the range of an orchard, or a wide, dry, sandy pasture, or field, and are able to procure clean water, a good poultry-house is all that is essential, though even then, an inclosure or yard is desirable, for the safety and better management of the young broods. It should be open and airy, its soil dry, and sheltered from cold wintry winds, by a high close fence, or a belt of thick evergreens; or a simple shed should be erected in some suitable spot, in order to afford the fowls a screen from the hot rays of the mid-day sun in Summer, and from heavy rain storms and showers.

Should there be no access to a pasture, or orchard, or field, it is desirable that a portion of the yard be laid down with grass; and the larger the yard the better the accommodation.

#### THE WRITER'S POULTRY-HOUSE.

In a sequestered nook, and cluster of trees, on the sunny side of a high bank, surmounted by rocks covered with shrubbery, may be seen the new fowl-house, lately erected by the writer. This location was selected for the purpose of protection from the cold northern blasts, and receiving the warmth and benefit of the Winter's sun. The deciduous trees in front being deprived of their foliage in Winter, admits the full influence of the sun, and, when in full leaf, to shade and ward off his searching rays in Summer.

*Description.*—The elevation, as will be seen in the figure accompanying this article, is a rather pretty affair. The centre building, with the gable to the front, is twelve feet square; eight feet posts. The roof very steep, and surmounted with a kind of cupola, for the purpose of ventilation and ornament; in the bottom of this are two small swing doors, to close up when necessary. The roof is of one and-a-quarter inch plank, tongued and grooved, the joints painted with white lead, and battened. The entire front is of glass, extending to the very point at the top.

The left wing is a lower edifice, twenty-two feet long and ten feet wide. The floor, which is of broken stone covered with fine gravel, is sunk below the surface, two feet in front and eight feet in the rear. The back wall resting against the bank, is of stone, twenty inches thick, faced with brick. The front wall and ends are also of brick. The roof has a gentle pitch to the rear and made of one-and-a-quarter inch plank, tongued



and grooved, joints painted with white lead before being laid. The under sides of the rafters are lined with hemlock boards, the spaces between the rafters filled with tan, rendering it frost-proof. The front wall is of brick, and two feet high, on which the wood and sash rest. In the base are gratings, to admit air; also above the glass, and just under the eaves, are open spaces for ventilation. In very cold weather these spaces may be closed with shutters. On the right is a door for entrance, and on the left is a small one for the egress and ingress of the fowls.

**Internal Arrangement.**—In the rear, and running the whole length of the room, are two tiers of boxes for nests, which are eighteen inches square, and the same in height. Adjoining the nest, is an apartment of the same size, where the hen enters to go to her nest, which is latticed in front, giving air and apparent secrecy, with which she seems much pleased. The under tier is about two feet above the ground floor. The range of tiers is set out from the back wall ten inches. These nests are covered with boards, sloping down, like the roof of a house, to catch and carry down the droppings of the fowls from the perches immediately over, to a trough in the rear. By this arrangement the manure is all saved, and out of the way of the fowls. We kept our Spanish fowls in this house last Winter, without injury by frost, to their wattles or large combs.

C. N. BEMENT.

*Springside, March, 1850*

### Skunks worth Catching and Skinning.

That is so. Every thing has its use, and those who have only considered skunks as animals to be killed because they prowl around the barn and poultry houses, to steal eggs and destroy young chickens, may be surprised to learn that a sudden demand has arisen for their fur. During the last six months, tens of thousands of skunk skins have been sold in this city at 75c., \$1.00, and \$1.25 each. Last year the Hudson Bay Company sent some of the skins to Europe, as an experiment, and they came into great demand, particularly in Russia, where they are used for coat linings and trimmings. Coon skins have been largely exported for this purpose, black ones especially being highly prized. These have become quite scarce, and the black fur of the skunk so nearly resembles the black coon skin, as to meet with a very ready sale. Several shippers of fur in this city inform us that from 100,000 to 150,000 skunk skins have been exported from New-York during the Winter just past, and that there are probably 40,000 now remaining in the city, awaiting shipment.

The prices here have ranged from 75c. to \$1 each, and even higher, according to the size and quality, the pure black being more prized than the mottled. At present they bring from 50 to 75 cents each. When in Columbia County, N. Y., a few weeks since, we found the boys had been busy trapping and shooting the animals, and some of them had reaped quite a harvest, besides ridding the neighborhood of a real pest. The probability is that the supply will soon be so abundant as to reduce prices, but even then it will not be amiss to turn to account the present opportunity of "making an ill wind blow good" to somebody. They should not be killed for their skins at this season of the year, however, as the fur is worthless. About next November will be the time to begin to take them. They are easily managed. Caught in large box-traps, they do not emit their disagreeable odor, and with care in carrying to a pond, or water-trough, they may be drowned and

skinned with less effluvia, than is left by the common musk-rats. Under the triple stimulus, of the sale of skins, the destruction of a pest, and the excitement of the thing, the country is likely to be thoroughly cleared of this most common and most abundant of the original wild animals—squirrels excepted. In the above we have not taken into account the value of the carcasses, for the oil which may be extracted, as well as for the meat which is actually eaten to considerable extent, and highly prized in some parts of the country. When properly killed and dressed, we should prefer it to that of the woodchuck—or frogs! We do not affect either.

### Raising Tomatoes—Sundry Hints.

*By a Michigan Lady of long and large experience.*

[We received during the Winter, the following minute directions for growing Tomatoes from a lady who has raised and put up an immense quantity of this vegetable during the last ten years. On a first cursory reading, the method recommended seemed to embrace too much labor for general adoption, and our columns being over crowded we laid it aside. But reading it carefully again, we find so many good hints that we think the article will well pay for a perusal by all who cultivate tomatoes—and that embraces all who have a garden, we believe. The directions for hot-bed treatment are late for this season, but not so with the suggestions for transplanting, whether from a hot-bed or a seed plot, into the open ground. It will be noted that the directions here given refer to latitude 42°, and allowance must be made for the earlier seasons further south.—Ed.]

Prepare a hot-bed the latter part of February, or first of March in the very best manner, with six inches of fine vegetable mold upon the surface. The temperature should be well regulated, never rising above 100° even in mid-day, nor falling below 50° at night, or when shaded.

The best variety of the tomato, is the Large Smooth Red. Steep the seed twenty-four hours in warm rain water. Rake the soil well and sow thinly, covering lightly and press the soil firmly. Water them with a solution of  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. saltpetre to a gallon of rain water, of the same temperature as the bed. Close the sash for 48 hours, and shade with straw scattered lightly over the glass. Raise the sash a trifle only, until the plants have made their first leaves; at which time gradually remove the straw, and admit more air to the bed, unless the weather is severely cold. The seedlings at this state need nice management; if they have no air, they will damp off; if chilled by the admission of strong cold drafts, they will never recover from the effects. If it becomes necessary to raise the sash when strong winds prevail, protect the side most exposed, by stretching mats across; or surround the bed with them, to break the force of the wind. The surface of the bed must be kept constantly moist by frequent sprinklings of rain water of the same temperature as the bed.

Choose the warmest part of the day, to thin the plants. Leave four to every foot; or three inches to each plant.

When the plants have made four strong leaves besides the cotyledons, pinch off the two lower ones, without injuring the buds in their axils which will eventually form the fruit branches. Sprinkle regularly with tepid rain water; and give a good supply of suds or manure water weekly. If the latter is used, avoid wetting the leaves, or rinse them with pure water immediately. Pinch off the two lower leaves, as fast as new ones put forth. When four have been removed; take up the plants, pinch off the end of the tap root and plant out in the same bed, if the heat is not too much exhausted, sinking the stems a little lower than they stood before. If the bed is too cool, plant them in another, four inches apart. Wet the soil thoroughly; close the sash for a few

hours and shade until the plants are well rooted. Give all the air possible with safety to the plants. Trim as before and transplant in the same manner when the plants have made four more leaves, setting them six inches apart. Water and shade as previously directed. When four more leaves have been removed, transplant again, leaving them nine inches distant. Remove one fourth of the leaves on the branches, being careful not to touch the clusters of flower buds. If the plants have been sunk a little each time of transplanting, they will now have formed a mass of small fibrous roots ready to do their duty. Now prepare them for their final removal to the open border, by admitting all the air and light possible, without injuring the plants. Raise the frames as often as is necessary, that the plants may not be deformed, or crowded. As soon as practicable, remove the sash entirely. Trim the plants as before; leaving always on the ends of branches, and near each cluster of fruits, sufficient leaves to attract and elaborate the sap needed to perfect the fruit.

Prepare a border in the highest part of the garden, if possible sloping to the south. Spade deeply and enrich the soil, which should be sandy, with equal parts of barnyard and vegetable manure thoroughly decomposed. The bed should be four feet wide and extending east and west. The frames should be five feet square, driven one foot deep in the border, placed one foot from the north side of the bed, one foot from frame to frame, sloping very little towards the north. Prepare a hole one foot across by each frame or lattice, pour in enough hot water to make a mud batter, take up the plants carefully with the adhering soil, and place them in the holes half an inch lower than they previously stood. Tie them to the frames with a soft string and cover the wet earth with an inch of dry soil. If the lower branches can be made to reach the ground without breaking, cover a part of them with the soil and tie the end of the branches to the frame. Sprinkle the leaves immediately and shade for a few days. If the air is very dry, sprinkle the leaves daily for two weeks. If cold, protect the plants with mats or blankets.

The 20th of May is sufficiently early in this climate to remove plants from the hot-bed to the garden; and too early if the season is cold and backward. There is much lost, by planting out before the soil is sufficiently warm to receive the roots without giving so severe a chill as to injure them permanently. Continue to trim both main and fruit branches. Stir the soil often, draw it up slightly to the stem once every month to induce new shoots to form which will materially invigorate the plant. For very early fruit, stop all the branches and main stem when the first fruit is as large as filberts. When as many tomatoes are formed as can reasonably be expected to ripen before frost, stop the growth of the whole vine by pinching, and remove the blossoms not set for fruit. This will not only expedite the ripening of the fruit, but increase its size. If frost is expected, cover slightly until the danger is past. If the plants are touched by frost, water before the sun touches them and shade for the day; this will usually save them. The season for tomatoes in this latitude is very short, when the old method is pursued; by the above plan, they can be had in perfection, from July 15th, to Oct. 25th. The theory, that removing the leaves injures the fruit does not hold good in the tomato, since by reducing the luxuriance of the vines, we get more, and better fruit than when they are allowed to make all the foliage they would naturally.

As the tomato throws out from its stem abundance of new roots each time it is transplanted,



it is well prepared to sustain itself when removed to the border; and plants thus treated, if lifted with care, and planted out as directed, can be left in the hot-bed as long as the weather renders it imprudent to remove them to the open air, with no danger of their being too forward to move. I have transplanted them without injury, when in full bloom, eighteen inches high, while every one who has tried it, knows how difficult it is to make a tomato live even, when removed from a hot-bed to the cold soil of the garden, with only one poor little root to sustain it.

If the garden is infested with cut worms wrap the stem before planting out with one thickness of newspaper extending three inches above the root. Every plant not stopped for early fruit may be depended upon for from a half to one bushel of fine well ripened fruit, not half green with a taste more like the soil on which it grew, than the delicious fruit it is.

Save seed from the largest, smoothest, and earliest tomatoes, ripening on vines not stopped for the early fruit. The fruit should be very ripe, and lay in the sun until nearly decayed. Wash the seed clean and dry in the shade.

It may seem to careless gardeners, too much trouble to grow tomatoes with so much care; but the lover of this excellent fruit will, I feel sure, not regret his trouble, when he perceives the difference between tomatoes cultivated, and those allowed to grow wild. I often hear it said; "I do not see what makes your tomatoes taste so different from mine." I have tried to give the reasons in the above details.

E. F. HASKILL.

Monroe, Mich., 1859.

### Directions for Raising Melons, Cucumbers, etc.

Most persons relish fine ripe melons, especially in the hot summer months, when there is a craving for something succulent and cooling. Melons are one of the bountiful gifts granted by Nature, alike to poor and rich, for the laborer who has a little plot around his cottage, can grow them for his own use, as well as can the millionaire with his gardens and conservatories. A few seeds, a plot of ground naturally free from standing water or made so artificially, and plenty of sunshine, are the essentials. A deep, friable loam, having more sand than clay, and enriched with decayed vegetable matter, is the best.

Early starting of the vines is also very desirable. In this latitude we have raised very good melons from seed planted near the close of May, but they came to full maturity after the season when they would have been most relished. May 1st or earlier, is the better season for starting the seed. As there is danger of the seeds rotting in the ground, and also of the plants being stunted by cold, when put into the open ground at the North before about the middle of May, we advise starting the plants in sods or baskets as soon as the middle of April or first of May. Cut pieces of grass turf, say six inches square, more or less, invert them, and plant four to eight seeds in each. Keep the turf barely moist, but never dry, placing it in a cellar, or on the south side of a house, board-fence, or other protection. When the seeds are up, the ground warm, and the weather suitable, transfer the sods to hills. Or: the seeds may be planted at first in old open baskets filled with earth, and the baskets afterwards be set in the garden or plot. The roots will find their way through the holes in the bottom and sides of the basket, and out into the surrounding soil. The baskets, of course, are to be left in the soil un-

disturbed through the season. Both of these plans have proved very good, and a gain of two or three weeks time may thus be made.

Whether the seeds be previously started, or planted at once in the open ground, the hills should be made wide apart, say 6 to 8 feet each way for water-melons, and 5 to 6 feet for muskmelons, canteloupes, cucumbers, etc. There is no waste of ground in this. If land is scarce or valuable, the spaces between the hills, but not very near them, may be used for early lettuce, radishes, or other early low growing plants. Melon vines grow better, and yield more and better fruit for not being crowded.

The finest plot of cucumbers we ever saw, was in this wise: They were planted in drills 6 feet apart, the seeds being sown quite thickly and afterwards thinned out to about 15 inches between the plants. The thinning was done from time to time by clipping down, not pulling up, the excess of vines. The last plants were not cut out until there was an established growth of 2 or 3 feet, and all danger from insects was past. After this, by turning in the ends of the runners, and occasionally clipping them where there was an excess, they were made to cover evenly, but not thickly, a space of 2½ feet each side of the original seed drill. This left them in beds 5 feet wide, with a clean path one foot wide between each bed. From this path the picker or weeder could reach into the center of the bed on each side, and the vines were uninjured by trampling in weeding or gathering the cucumbers. A similar plan would be a good one for all sorts of melon vines. We shall adopt it this year.

For fertilizers, well rotted barn-yard manure, or chip manure, rotten leaves (leaf-mold), sand on clay soils, bone sawings, etc., are good. Let a free supply be added to each hill, or along each drill, digging the ground thoroughly for a foot each way from where a plant is to stand, and at least a foot deep, mixing in the manure to that depth and width. Deep digging is important. The vines require much moisture, and they should have a chance to send down roots below the drying effects of the severest drouth, that they may always obtain a full supply of sap.

Insects are the greatest obstacle to success in raising melons or cucumbers. They may be kept off with frames, hoops, or bottomless boxes, placed over the hills. Soot, ashes, air-slaked lime, red pepper, tobacco water, etc., sprinkled over the young plants, are sometimes partial preventives, but not always. The best plan we have found in practice is to raise enough plants extra to feed the insects. This may be done in two or three modes. Our plan is to put in twenty, thirty, or even fifty seeds for each perfect plant finally wanted. Out of this number we have never failed to get some perfect plants. This is only practicable when seed is abundant, but it is better usually to buy two or three five-penny papers of seed extra, in order to secure a certain supply of plants. A second plan is, to put in two or three circles or rows of seeds, each row being planted three-fourths of an inch deeper than the one within it. By this means a fresh supply of tender plants will appear in succession, and the insects will feed upon the youngest, and before these are consumed, the first starting plants will have grown out of the way of harm, as the insects do not eat the leaves after they are somewhat matured and hardened. The third plan is similar, and we have found it perfectly effectual. We make the hills or drills, and plant a few seeds say 2 or 3 inches deep, then put on three-fourths of an inch of fine earth, and add another layer

of seeds. Then add more earth and more seeds, the last seeds being covered but ½ to ¾ inch with fine soil, slightly patted down to prevent drying. We have also varied this plan by scattering the seeds on the surface of the prepared hill, and dibbling, digging, or raking them in to different depths. They then continue coming up for three or four weeks, and the insects invariably leave us some strong plants among those first starting. This takes more seeds, and may seem a lazy method, but for busy men who have not time to stand by and watch the enemy, and pinch them off with the fingers, or "shoot them with bow and arrow," we think the plan will in the end prove the cheapest. Twenty-five cents worth of extra seed will satisfy the insect tax-gatherers, and we usually prefer to pay the tax rather than expend a dozen "quarters'" worth of time in protecting and defending our "reserved rights."

### Sweet Potatoes.

These, to be dry and mealy, require a warm, sandy, and tolerably rich soil. The sets are now easily obtained, even by mail, of those who make a business of growing them for sale. They may be easily produced, however, by planting the small potatoes horizontally in a hot-bed, the latter part of April or first of May. A good supply of these sets or sprouts may be obtained in this manner, for planting out from the 15th to the 20th of May, and the potatoes if left in the ground will yield more sprouts for still later planting.

To remove these sets, water the bed thoroughly, and follow down by the side of the sprout with the finger, separating it from the potato at its junction. A moist day is best for transplanting. Having enriched and deeply plowed the ground, harrow it down, and with a light plow mark off the rows four feet each way. Make the hills at the intersections of the furrows, by drawing up the earth with a large hoe, so as to form a broad surface about one foot higher than the surrounding ground. Plant two sets about six inches apart upon the top of each hill, and there is very little more to be done, except removing weeds. At the first hoeing a plow may be used, turning the earth towards the hills, which will materially lessen the labor, and assist in hilling. Draw the earth about the plants with the hoe. After this the vines will begin to cover the ground, precluding the use of anything but the hoe, which should be used to keep down weeds.

We have seen very fair sweet potatoes grown in northern Ohio, and known of their being raised with moderate success in northern central New-York.

### Club-footed Cabbages.

Cabbages sometimes show a disposition to grow with very large, semi-bulbous roots, instead of heading well; this difficulty called the 'club-foot' often occasions serious loss to the cultivator. It has been attributed to several causes, among which are cold wet soils, and the use of manure from hog-pens. We suspect the trouble may come from seed raised contiguous to or in the same patch with turnips cultivated for seed. Both the cabbage and turnip belong to the *brassica* tribe, and when in flower, they may be mixed or hybridized, by pollen from one flower falling upon or being carried to another. It would be well to prevent this cause of difficulty by raising supplies of these seeds in alternate years. The different varieties of cabbages, or of any plant, should be kept at a distance if pure seed is desired.



CEDAR OF LEBANON, AT WOODLAWN, NEAR PRINCETON, N. J.—Height 36 feet.

This magnificent tree, to which the Scriptures make very frequent allusions, derives its name from Mount Lebanon, in the vicinity of which it most largely abounded formerly. It is often spoken of in connection with buildings, and particular reference is made to Solomon's Temple, and the four-score thousand (80,000) hewers in the mountains preparing the timber. Some writers think that the inroads made upon these forests at that time so thinned them out that they have never fully recovered. Certain it is, that late travelers do not find them abundant in those regions, although a few very large specimens are left, whose ages must date far back into the past, as many of them now measure over thirty feet in circumference.

The trees were introduced into England many years ago, and succeed well in that moist atmosphere. One is described by Loudon, 72 feet in height and 24 feet in circumference. Another is spoken of which was blown down in 1779, and measured 70 feet in height. It is a rapid growing tree in that country, after the first few years. They are not perfectly hardy in this country north of 40°, but in most localities south of that parallel succeed well. We have seen several beautiful specimens at Flushing, Long Island, of some 40 or 50 feet in height, with their broad, depending

branches sweeping the ground in a circle of about 45 feet in diameter. They show best when grown as single trees; the lower branches die out when they are crowded together in masses. They are produced, with some difficulty, from cuttings, in propagating frames or houses, but are more generally raised from seed sown in Spring, upon a rather light sandy loam, covering only one-half inch. They will require a slight protection in this latitude, for the first few winters, after which, plant in a deep soil, somewhat moist. When grown in perfection, they form a splendid tree, as shown in the engraving. For this beautiful engraving we are indebted to A. O. Moore, the publisher of the last edition of Downing's Landscape Gardening, which is noticed elsewhere in this number. The imprint shows that the sketch is from the publisher's own pencil.

#### Planting Evergreens—Best time For.

May is on the whole the best month for planting evergreens. 'Not so,' says Mr. Jones; 'I once planted some hemlocks and pines in May, and they nearly all died; whereas, some that I set out in July lived, and so did some in August. I believe in July and August.'

Listen reader, while we tell you privately, how

he planted his trees in May, and how those in July and August; then you may judge what his opinion is worth. He went to the woods, one fine warm day in May, dug up his hemlocks at his leisure, carried them home with the roots bare, set them out in a clay soil, dashed on a pail-full of water from the well, and took no further pains with them. His pines he bought of a strolling tree-peddler; and the pedler managed thus: He went to his swamp and dug up the pines in a very rough way, using his ax more than his spade, cutting off most of the roots for convenience in lifting and packing. When enough were dug, he loaded them on his wagon like so many logs, and they spent the remainder of the day and the night on the wagon, uncovered. Next day they were leisurely drawn ten miles to the neighboring town, and delivered, nicely dried and baked by wind and sun. Just for looks' sake, however, the pedler halted at a pump, before reaching the town, and threw a few pailfulls of water over his trees. Mr. Jones, the purchaser, thought the trees looked very fresh, and as they were offered cheap, he asked no further questions, and ordered them to be set out. They were set out, as posts are set, and most of them lived just as much as posts do. Now, after this experiment, who can fail to see that May is a bad month for transplanting evergreens!

His work in July and August was done thus: Mourning over his earlier losses, he resolved to take more pains with his trees. He began by preparing large holes, rejecting the poor soil and carting in better, and providing a heap by the side of each hole for planting with. Then, taking advantage of a cool and moist day, which had been preceded by several rainy ones, he went to the open fields (not to the woods), and dug up hemlocks, firs, and pines, getting as large roots as possible, and taking up also a ball of earth with each tree, and protecting them with old matting until they were planted. "That's right," said an old gardener, who noticed his care in protecting the roots from sun and wind, "never let 'em see daylight, and the trees are sure to live." And they did live, nearly every one, and so did another lot which he purchased at the same time from a neighboring nursery, and treated with the same care. He not only planted them well, but mulched their roots with leaves and flat stones. And because they lived, Mr. Jones insists that mid-summer is the best time for transplanting evergreens! And he declares that only stupid or obstinate people doubt it.

Now, let us inquire whether early Summer is not the best time for doing this work. Observation shows that evergreens have their greatest vigor, and are best able to overcome the shock of removal, at the time when they are just beginning to grow. Roots, branches, and buds are then in full action, and the tree's annual impulse of growth is but slightly checked. Again: the roots of evergreens suffer more from exposure to sun and wind, than deciduous trees. Some physiologists say that this is owing to the resinous quality of the sap in the roots which hardens on becoming dry, and stops the circulation, and can not be softened by any subsequent watering. Now, these two conditions are best met by planting in May, or early in June, when the tree is just waking into vigorous life, and when the ground and the atmosphere are comparatively moist. Of course it is possible to move evergreens in mid-summer, and indeed in almost every month of the year; but if the inquiry is, what on the whole is the best season, we answer unhesitatingly, in May. Such is the voice of theory, and the voice of practice harmonizes with it. With few exceptions,



the prevailing testimony of planters far and wide is that in their experience the best season is in early Summer, when the trees are pushing out their first growth. In the southern States, this comes in April and the first part of May; at the north, in May and the first half of June.

Doubtless many evergreens will be planted the present Summer. A new appreciation of their value is being awakened in all parts of the country. Northern people especially, whose Summer season is so short, begin to feel the desirableness of having their home-scenes made cheerful by unchanging foliage. How the wintry winds twist and batter, if they do not break down young orchards and rare ornamental trees, which a belt of evergreens would defend from injury. How the storms roar around many an exposed house, rattling the doors and windows, sifting in through cracks and crevices, and making a Winter residence on certain sides of the house uncomfortable, which a few groups of pines and spruces would soften and keep at bay. And does not the wood-pile and the coal-heap waste faster, in the attempt to warm a house so exposed?

Let it be remembered too, how many months of the year are leafless months. Not to speak now, of mid-winter, there is a month or two in Autumn, after deciduous leaves have dropped, and before snow has fallen, when the grounds of a country home are quite desolate. Desolate indeed, if planted with deciduous trees alone; but if fringed and interspersed with groups and scattered specimens of evergreens, they continue cheerful. The grass holds much of its freshness, and with this and a variety of well managed evergreen trees and shrubs lighted up by a warm November sun, one hardly misses the departed glory of Summer. And the same is true in Spring. We have early blooming flowers, the air is full of singing birds, and the grass is green for quite a time before the tardy deciduous trees have put on their Summer robes. In this period, evergreens play an important part, breaking off the cold winds and giving a cheerful air to the landscape. To the eye of the landscape-artist, these trees are as important in Summer as in Winter. He wants the depth of color and the richness and variety of tint in his groups of foliage which can be got only by a due admixture of evergreens. He wants their bold forms to pierce through and break up the monotony of round-headed trees, and to give them life and inspiration.

But we must stay our pen for the present. Enough for this month, if comfort, health, economy, and beauty, plead for the planting of conifers. At another time, we may add a few words on the selection of trees, from old and new sorts.

### "May Day" Tree Planting.

G. B. Richards, of Addison Co., Vt., sends us a lengthy communication, but we have only room for the following summary: In Vermont and some other parts of New-England, associations or societies are formed for the improvement of neighborhoods, by planting ornamental shade trees around the churches and country burying-grounds, also along the streets of villages and country roads, with groves on the commons, and vacant corners thrown into the highways at road crossings. In that latitude, "May Day" is chosen as an appropriate season, since vegetation is more backward than further south. The day is anticipated with much interest and looked upon as a sort of holiday by the young people who are wont to have a merry-making in the evening, where, of course, the country and village lads and lasses are represented. At each succeeding

year failures are made good and the line of road planting extended, either from the finest trees of the native forests, or with cultivated trees, which are not unfrequently supplied gratis by the public spirited nurserymen of the neighborhood. These trees besides beautifying the whole country are a real comfort during the scorching days of Summer and a sort of belt to break the force of high winds, and, where interspersed with evergreens, temper the chilling blasts of Winter.

These examples are worthy of imitation, in all country places. It is surprising what changes may be produced by a very little tree planting like this. How many of us have seen a few trees growing in the street even, before a man's door, which the owner would not part with for ten times the cost. In riding over a monotonous plain during the sultry days of Summer, how the eye longs for something to change the scene, and both traveler and beast are delighted to enter a wood, with the high over-arching boughs meeting to form a cool refreshing shade. In some places they carry the spirit of liberality so far as to plant fruit trees along the road sides, to afford both shade and fruit for the weary traveler, each landholder gathering in its season, what remains opposite to his premises. Were such customs more prevalent, the neighboring orchards would be much more secure.

### Town Horticultural Societies.

In some former volume we have called attention to the importance of local horticultural societies; and we are constrained to do so again. The leading object of such societies is the diffusion of information, especially suited to the locality in which they exist, and the promotion of a public interest in rural pursuits. Much can be learned by two or three annual gatherings of the farmers, gardeners, and amateurs of the town, comparing notes, and exhibiting the fruits of their labor and skill. And the stimulus gained thereby to their zeal is very great or useful.

If it is understood that the town society is to have in June an exhibition of fruits, vegetables, and flowers, every person who owns a rod of ground is wide awake to see how much he can do with it. Radishes, lettuce, rhubarb, asparagus, peas, and strawberries are all cultivated with special care. In strawberries, particularly, there is great competition. Mr. Hovey, who has so long carried off the prizes, finds Mr. Peabody, Mr. Wilson, Mr. McAvoy, Mr. Hooker, and a multitude more panting hard after him. One claims superior size, another earliness, another excels in sweetness, or firmness, or prolificness, and so on. This is the season, too, for roses and many other flowers. Here the ladies especially show their zeal and taste. For several weeks before the exhibition, shrubs and plants are watched and pruned and watered with unusual care. Rose-bugs and slugs get their eyes full of whale-oil soap suds, or tobacco water, or lime. The consequence is, that this queen of the garden makes a grand display. Lilacs, peonies, panzies, daises, honeysuckles, and many other flowers of the season combine to deck off the gala scene.

And if there is, (as there should be,) a second exhibition in September or October, there is a fine opportunity for the show of other good things. Potatoes of all sorts, squashes of old and new kinds, cauliflower, melons, tomatoes, egg-plants, pears, apples, quinces, grapes, blackberries, all are represented, and all give an interest to the occasion. Pears and grapes attract more attention than any other fruits. The many Beurrés, the Seckel, D'Angouleme, Louise Bonne de Jer-

sey, Belle Lucrative, Lawrence, Onondaga, Vicar of Winkfield, Flemish Beauty, each in its own ruddy, golden or russet hue, attracts many admirers. And the best of it all is, that most of these admirers resolve on the spot, that they will henceforth give more attention to pear culture. Perhaps a discussion arises among the knowing ones, on the comparative merits of the pear-stock and the quince-stock, but it ends, where such debates always end, in assigning the quince-stock to the garden, and the pear-stock to the orchard.

What a crowd around the tables of grapes! "Is that the *Dy-anney*?" says one. "And that must be the *Concord*, where the war was fought." "Here we have the *Rebecca*," says a lady pomologist, and the *Delaware*, too; small berries, but most delicious; "nature often does up her best things in small packages." "Let's see your *Charter-Hoak*," says a burly Englishman, "they do say if you heat one of 'em for supper, you'll 'ave to send for the doctor afore mornin'!" And so the talk goes on, every man, woman, and child admiring the splendid clusters, and not a few resolving to try their hands at grape-culture the coming season.

Nor are flowers wanting at this exhibition. Conspicuous above all are the showy dahlias. The gladiolus, Japan, and other lilies, tiger-flowers, perpetual roses, phloxes, verbenas, petunias, asters, balsams, and a nameless multitude of beautiful and fragrant things meet the eye on every hand, and invest the scene with the air of enchantment.

Now, who can not see that such town fairs exert a good influence? Almost every person learns something new, every one gets a stimulus in the work of gardening or farming, which makes his subsequent labors at home easier and pleasanter. The kindly social feeling fostered in the community by such familiar gatherings is also beyond price.

### Landscape Gardening—N. Y. Central Park.

A capital opportunity is now presented to those who desire to study Landscape Gardening, which they can do practically, by an immediate visit to the Central Park in this City, and then continuing their visits from time to time, as the work progresses. The grounds are under the direction of Mr. Olmsted, as chief Architect, assisted by Mr. Vaux. Good taste and skill, with indefatigable industry appear in what has already been accomplished. The grounds at the north end are already beginning to assume shape and beauty; and even now there are numerous foot-paths over the rough rocky hillocks, and down the wild glens by babbling streams, plashing water-fall, and crystal fountain. A friend who traveled abroad in former years, has just returned from his first visit to our Park, and he is quite enthusiastic. He thus writes down for us his impressions: "The Architects have happily seized upon the varied points in the original rough landscape, and are shaping them to a picturesque beauty, such as I believe no Park in Europe can be compared with, except, perhaps, that of Stockholm in Sweden. The London people would think themselves happy in possessing a single one of its many rockeries at a cost of £5,000 (\$25,000).

"The view from the Central Park observatory is varied in the extreme. North, is the Hudson River, its towering Pallisades, the hills of Westchester, and the broad Sound; East, a wide river and Long Island; South, the Bay and wooded heights of Staten Island; while all around are the magnificent buildings of the great cities of New-York and Brooklyn."

### Whale-oil Soap and Lime vs. the Curculio.

In a recent conversation with Mr. J. W. Logan, Morris Co., N. J., he stated that last year he purchased a quantity of whale oil soap for the purpose of keeping insects from his rose bushes. Having more than was needed for this purpose, it occurred to him to use it upon his plum trees, and wishing to be certain as to its effects, he selected for trial a tree on which he had been unable to ripen any fruit for two or three years previous. He syringed one half of the tree two or three times with the soap dissolved in water, at intervals of about ten days, commencing when the fruit has just set from the flower. The result was, he gathered an abundance of fine, well-ripened fruit from that side of the tree, while on the other no fruit ripened. Other trees in the immediate vicinity also lost their fruit by the curculio. The soap should be used in the proportion of one pound to six or seven gallons of water.

Capt. A. Davis, Columbia Co., N. Y., who has been noted for his skill and success in fruit growing, informed us, that he had almost despaired of his plums for several years, the curculio having blighted what would otherwise have been an abundant crop. By way of experiment he took quicklime, slaked it with water just sufficient to reduce it to powder, and applied it to the trees. He put the lime in a bag made of cloth of loose texture, so that it would sift through freely, tied it to the end of a light pole, and thoroughly dusted the trees. This was done several times after the fruit had first set, and the result was a very large crop of fruit. Others have recommended unleached ashes to be applied in the same way. Any one or all of these experiments will cost but little, and if successful, will abundantly repay all time and trouble.

### Apples Rotting on Trees.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

Noticing some remarks in "our Basket" to W. B. Morgan, Gibson Co, Tennessee, relative to apples rotting on the tree, I present a few facts from my own experience within the last year or two. I have a full-grown apple tree, which has borne during three years (not consecutive, as the fruit was cut off with frost one intervening year) not less than 60 to 65 bushels of apples, but until this year I have saved scarcely any. The first year, as soon as the fruit began to change color, a black spot of rot appeared on each apple, and they all fell off.—I began to look about for the cause, by digging about the trees, supposing, as is generally the case in Tennessee, that it was planted too deep. I had not dug far, when I discovered what must have been the site of an ash hopper. I immediately removed about three cart loads of ashes, and the tree the next year had not more than half of the fruit spotted, and this year I have gathered from the said tree 25 bushels of marketable fruit, leaving three or four bushels on the tree that I considered too small and green. Now, there may have been too much lye, or the tree may have been too deeply planted for the atmosphere to penetrate, or both. I have found that when trees are not planted too deep, or when they are dug about and well drained, the fruit seldom, if ever, rots. I have had only one tree out of 150 which has had rotten fruit this year, and that is, I conjecture, from its being situated in a wet place, and which I hope to remedy by trenching around it or near it. I have no doubt that the removal of the ashes and soil cured the tree I speak of, but I leave your readers to draw their own inference.

A. NEWBERRY.

Sequestee Co., Tenn.

[The facts given in this case are not sufficient to warrant the conclusion, that rot in fruit on the tree is caused by the soil being too wet. Undoubtedly a well-drained orchard will have an increased quantity of fruit and of better quality. In the case of the tree which rested over the ashes, it may be that injury was received by its being in that position, but facts from many sections go to prove, that insects are at the bottom of most of the mischief done to fruit.—Ed.]

### American Fruits—Past and Present. III.

BY LEWIS F. ALLEN, ERIE CO., N. Y.

(Continued from page 111.)

#### THE PLUM.

This fruit has been more or less cultivated in the United States since their first settlement, although not as a general fruit common to all sections alike. In early boyhood, in the orchard first named in my first paper, I knew several trees of choice varieties—among them one or two of the gage, the damson, and sub-varieties of the common blue or horse-plum. In Western Pennsylvania, about Pittsburgh, forty years ago they abounded in several choice varieties, free from disease or insects. In New-England, so far as I know, they have for many years been a scarce fruit, and in many wide localities their cultivation has not of late been attempted at all. Yet they have for a long series of years abounded along the shores of the Hudson river, from a few miles below the city of Hudson to some miles above Troy, on both sides of the river, and west to Schenectady—which is probably the best plum region in the United States, where they have always flourished free from disease or destructive insects, in numerous varieties and of the finest flavor. Many of our best new varieties have originated thereabouts, and still flourish in high perfection; and they once flourished pretty much all through the State of New-York, westward from Albany to Lake Erie.

Thirty-two years ago, taking up my permanent residence at Buffalo, and finding the most of our northern fruits growing well, I introduced from the nurseries of Mr. André Parmentier, then recently from France, and established at Brooklyn, opposite New-York, several hundred of his choice varieties, and sold them to several gentlemen in the town, who planted them in their gardens, many of which are still standing and in good bearing. Among them were several varieties of plums, and some of them are yet living.

The plum, in all its varieties then planted, grew and flourished in all this region, no matter what the soil if dry, and the best that I ever saw grew on a compact, stiff, fertile clay. Removing to my present residence, twenty years ago, I found many plum trees of different varieties, planted a dozen or fifteen years previous. They bore annually enormous crops of perfect fruit, particularly the red *magnum-bonum*, the yellow gage, damson, and common blue varieties, as high as thirty bushels in a season, and the trees were in perfect health and vigor, as were those of my neighbors. A dozen years ago the curculio made its appearance, and my plum crops began to wane. Less and less they grew every year, as the insect increased, until for a few years past, as accident or chance might determine, I have had either no plums at all, or but a few quarts, pecks, or bushels, as the case might be. And with the progress of the curculio, and the declension of the fruit, many of the trees cankered and died out. Some were old, had borne their allotted time, and probably ought to die. The young ones which I planted—for I still kept planting—did not

grow as formerly. A general stagnation seemed to prevade the whole plum family; and my neighbors' trees fared just as mine did. There were many of them in the garden, in cultivated ground, and they, together with those scattered about the lawn, but faithfully dug around every year, seemed to be pretty much alike. Yet some varieties of the tree kept on growing, and I have still left perhaps twenty apparently healthy trees of bearing size, a dozen years planted but bearing fitfully.

Soon after the curculio attacked my plums, a black mold or rot commenced striking them when about two-thirds grown, at first not bigger than a pin's head, and near the stem. In a few days the rot would cover half or two-thirds of the fruit, which would fall from the trees, worthless of course. Where the disease came from, I know not, but it was evidently contagious, and the neighboring trees fared in most cases like my own. This rot still continues. But a still worse calamity has befallen the plums—a disease afflicting the tree itself—the black knot, or wart. Although this disease—apparently incurable, so far as any practical treatment has affected it—has appeared in different parts of the country east of us, for more than twenty years past, it only reached here three years ago, striking all our trees, extending over miles of surface, during the same season. What this disease properly is, insect, canker, fungus, or blight, is yet a controverted question. Yet, for any disease or ailment some wise people have always at hand a nostrum. Accordingly for this, a year or so ago, I heard a gentleman, addressing his pomological auditors, remark that "nothing was easier than to cure" this "wart" at once: "lop off the diseased limb just below the excrescence, and the cure is effected!" Did it never occur to this learned doctor, that the wart sometimes breaks out in its most virulent form on the main branches, close to the trunk; and in young trees frequently on the trunk itself, and that near the ground? Comment on such twaddle is useless. It is enough that in the absence of a known remedy for this deadly disease, our plum trees are fast going the way of all others, which have had it to the east of us—into the faggot heap and wood pile.

It is to be hoped that many localities will escape the scourges which have cut off the plum in some of the hitherto most favored spots of its production, and that these enemies which have for years destroyed our plums, and are now likely to destroy the tree itself, may pass over, and permit us to again plant and enjoy their luxury; but how that is to be, time can only determine. Providence seems no sooner to create a good thing for our use, than a deadly enemy comes after it, impressing us most profoundly with the truth of the original sentence passed upon father Adam: in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread! In the month of September last, I saw common blue plums for sale at the fruit-dealers' shops in Buffalo, at four dollars a bushel, brought from the State of Delaware! It is hardly worth while to say, that last year our fruits of all kinds were pretty much cut off.

#### THE CHERRY.

The common pie or Kentish cherry has long been the occupant of the garden, lawn, and roadside, near the houses of the farmer and villager of the northern States, as the Morello has of the same places in the middle States. For a century or more, the black-heart English cherry, so called, has been cultivated in the neighborhood of New-York and Philadelphia. Within the last thirty or forty years the other best varieties of the English cherry, worked on Mazzard stocks, have been



widely disseminated throughout the northern and middle States, until in most localities it has become a standard fruit—delicious in flavor, abundant in bearing, and the tree itself free from disease. In many places, however, either the soil or climate, or both, have proved uncongenial, and its cultivation has measurably been abandoned. Such has been partially the case in the fat, heavy soils of the western States, in many parts of which it thus far proves altogether refractory. Not so in New-York. Finer cherries of all the choice varieties never grew, than we have had for many years in all the lake regions of our State, extending into Ohio along the Lake shore, and in Western or Upper Canada.

Last year, however, many large, full bearing cherry trees began to die, over a wide district of country, their previously favorite localities. Many complaints have been made of their dying about Rochester and Cleveland, and the last Summer I saw several dead ones in and about Buffalo. Of near forty hitherto thrifty bearing trees, one of my own died out last Summer, being two years about it, one side at a time. What the cause of this mortality may be, or the disease, if it be one, is yet unknown; but following suit with the plum, it will not be strange if the cherry, too, is taken off in part, or in whole.

Other stone fruits, as the Nectarine and Apricot, it is not worth while to discuss. They are more delicate than either the peach or the plum—a sort of hybrid, practically, between the two—and more vulnerable to insects, as well as less hardy to the influences of climate and soil.

### Failures in Grape Growing.

We are a little surprised at the reports which occasionally reach us, of the ill-success of persons in cultivating the grape. They complain of the slow growth of their young plants, of rot and mildew on their large vines, and the dropping of berries before complete maturity. From some inquiries that we have made, we suspect that the reasons of such failures are of this sort:

Many of the feeble-growing young vines are of the newer varieties, (such as Diana, Delaware and Rebecca,) which have been weakened by forced culture. There is such a demand for them by the public, and nurserymen are so desirous to reap the benefit of that demand, that they are propagated too rapidly for the health of the vines. The propagation is carried on in dung-beds, under glass, producing a very succulent growth. When these plants are removed from this artificial soil and climate, and set out in the open air and in common earth, it is no wonder that they fail to grow well. It may take several years for them to recover their proper vigor.

Another and more general cause of failure, is the careless planting and training of vines. In soils having a substratum not naturally porous, it is absolutely essential that the ground should be trenched and well drained. The most experienced and successful vine growers now understand this. They know that the vine is a gross feeder and rank grower below ground; hence, they give the roots ample space to spread themselves and to forage on whatever they like to eat. They know that the vine can not endure to have wet feet; and so they trench the ground and often put into the holes beneath the roots all sorts of rubbish for drainage, and then they make ditches to carry entirely away the water which collects in the sub-soil.

Some persons seem to think that planting a grape-vine consists in crowding the roots into a little hole and covering them up. A plant so

treated may live, for the vine loves life wonderfully—but it will not thrive and bear abundantly. Oh, no! let us be generous to this generous fruit; make wide, deep holes, give the roots a rich warm soil, and keep up its fertility from year to year. High manuring is not needed; light dressings every year of ashes, chip-dirt, muck from the woods, or a little barn-manure is all that is necessary.

Of course, pruning should not be neglected, both in the Fall and Summer. This is hardly less important than proper planting. Of pruning in Summer we will speak next month, when our suggestions will be more timely.

### Hints on Planting Grape Vines.

As we have often said in former numbers, every one with a few feet of ground may have one grape vine at least, and train it to a pole, upon the fence, over an arbor, or up the side of the house or other building. Scanty indeed must be the premises not affording room for several vines. From a single vine in a city yard we have seen several bushels of the finest grapes gathered during a season. But on the farm, how many vacant spaces, even beside good natural arbors or training conveniences, are well suited to the growth of the vine. It is in such places we urge the owners to plant grapes this very Spring. Plant plentifully of them too, so that a good supply may grace the dessert table, not only during what is ordinarily termed the grape months, but for the entire Winter and into Spring, unless the neighboring grocer, by an offer of 25c. to 30c. per lb., should tempt you to sell your remaining stock, after feasting for months upon them yourselves.

We have already written at length of the kinds adapted to different localities, and we will only mention a few sorts especially desirable.

The Isabella is well known and holds its character for excellence, productiveness, etc., where the season is long enough for it to thoroughly mature, or say south of 42° or 43°. North of that it is too late. The Catawba ripens still later, and is only in perfection when *fully ripe*, so that 42° is the extreme northern latitude we would advise its planting. Of late years it has not succeeded in this vicinity as well as the Isabella. The Concord is particularly desirable for the north, as it ripens somewhat earlier than the Isabella, is of strong growth, hardy, and very productive, with a little of the foxy flavor. The Hartford prolific, quite similar to the above, both as to hardiness, productiveness, and period of ripening, with a little less perfume, is rapidly gaining favor. The Diana is a first class grape, ripening about one week earlier than the Isabella, and superior to that variety in point of flavor, with berries of a smaller size. It hangs on the vine late, and is well adapted to Winter keeping. The Rebecca is nearly a white grape which, with the Delaware, was described last month. They are both quite early, and there is no discount in point of flavor.

In selecting a site for the grape vine, choose a dry subsoil, or at least a porous one. A heavy or clay hard-pan is illy suited to the wants of the vine. Where it must be planted in a soil of this kind a drain should be opened from the bottom of a wide, deep planting hole, to carry off the water. In addition, old bones, horns, hoofs, and a few stones, or decaying wood may be put in to assist the drainage. Upon this put leaf mold (rotten leaves from the woods), muck, garden or road side loam, turfs and rotten manure, well mixed together, leaving the surface after the vine is set, a little

higher than the surrounding ground. If the land is too level to drain, and there is no other situation for a vine, we would not despair of raising good grapes, by making a foundation *upon the surface*, with small stones or coarse gravel and plenty of broken bones, covering with good soil, muck, and manure, as above, so that the vine should stand on a sort of mound, some two feet higher than the surrounding land. While preparing the ground for one plant in this way, it is better to extend it, and make a sort of border for several vines.

But as we before remarked, we would prefer gravely or sandy ground, with a dry subsoil on a hill-side, if we could choose. Of course, the ground should be well manured. We repeat, if you have no grape vines planted, set them out somewhere. As to the *time*, the earlier the better now. They may be set any time in May, but the sooner now the better.

### Training Blackberries.

The Blackberry is such a rampant grower, and so productive of new shoots, that when once well established, it is difficult to keep it within bounds. Many of the garden-patches we have seen are almost impenetrable thickets, and scores of clusters ripen only for the birds, or to fall upon the ground, no one choosing to risk their hands, face, and clothes in reaching them. Even when tied to stakes, their long and armed side branches forbid a near approach, and the ground is very liable to become overrun with plants. To remedy this, we have seen an iron wire trellis used to good advantage.

To prepare for this mode of training, we advise planting in rows six feet apart, each way—which will take about 1,200 canes to the acre—and set small posts firmly in the ground, at a distance of 20 feet, in the direction the nearest North and South. These posts should be in the row of plants, and about 6½ feet in height above the ground. Two feet from the bottom, stretch a small-sized fence wire, (say No. 9 or No. 10,) fastening it firmly to the posts. Stretch three more wires one-and-a-half feet apart, the upper one being at the top of the posts, and the whole is complete.

The wires should be well fastened, by winding around the posts, or passing through staples driven in them, and the posts themselves should be firmly set; for when fully covered with branches and leaves, the trellis must be strong enough to resist powerful winds. Having set the posts and fastened the wires upon them, arrange and tie up the leading shoots with soft strings or lead wire. Draw in the main side branches and confine them in the same manner, so that the plant shall present a fan shape when properly adjusted.

By this method the canes can be more securely kept in place, with little danger of being torn to pieces or threshed about by heavy winds, and the side shoots need never split down by excessive bearing. Free admission will also be afforded for sun and air to thoroughly ripen the fruit. A plow, cultivator or horse-hoe can also be run between the rows to assist in cultivation.

We would also suggest that if blackberries be trained upon an ordinary wire fence, or one built higher than usual, you combine two requisites, as a much more effectual barrier will be interposed, and a useful purpose subserved at the same time.

We agree with N. P. Willis in his dislike of a trotting sulky, with a driver looking as if his spine was screwed into the axletree—a man with wheels put to him.





Is not this a picture of real enjoyment—enjoyment such as can be found only when surrounded with rural scenes? The dwelling, the rustic fence, and other features in the engraving, show that these persons are in humble life, but was ever a royal family happier than this pair? Their little ones are as dear to their hearts, as if "princes born." How much the charm of the picture is heightened by the taste displayed in surrounding their cottage with running vines that cling in loving embrace to the rudely latticed porch. That potted plant in the window speaks a volume concerning the taste that manages and adorns the inner temple. Aside from the immediate pleasure every one must derive from looking at rural pictures like this—pictures we love to present—we trust they may also develop a stronger attachment to, and desire for country life, and also lead to more attention being bestowed upon such cheap, easily obtained, but attractive adornments, as may be secured by planting a few seeds and roots, and training them around every rural dwelling.

#### Dahlia Culture—Details of Experience.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

I take pleasure in the cultivation of flowers and vegetables, and find the perusal of the *Agriculturist* instructive and interesting. Feeling a sympathy with your "crestfallen" correspondent in his "troubles with Dahlias"—as detailed on page 52 (Feb. No.)—I will give him the benefit of my experience. Several years ago, when residing on the west branch of the Susquehanna, a friend presented me with two large sprouted tubers, which had been grown in a rich sandy soil the previous year, and sprouted in a hot bed. The sprouts looked vigorous; we carried them twelve miles very carefully in a covered basket—planted them in a stiff clay soil (our garden was new). We pursued your favorite plan of transplanting—digging a hole deeper than necessary for the plant,

pouring in water plentifully, introducing the plant at the proper depth, and filling up with dry earth. They were shaded with two shingles or thin boards, stuck into the ground at one end and meeting at the other over the top of the plants, to protect them from the sun east and west, without excluding air. They never drooped, but grew slowly, bloomed late, and though full of buds, only a few flowers opened before they were killed by frost. The ground was too poor and stiff. We procured sand from the bed of a stream, dried it carefully on the kitchen stove, by spreading a small quantity at the time on an old tin tea-waiter, and then kept the sand in a dry place till needed.

As soon as the dahlia tops were killed by frost, we cut off the stalks about six inches above the ground, and took the roots up when the ground was dry. The bottom of a box, which was a little wider than the roots, was covered with the dry sand, and the roots placed in just as they were taken from the ground. They were put a little distance apart, and the sand poured in until the roots were covered. A bit of pasteboard was tied to each stalk, to distinguish the variety. They were left in the kitchen till freezing weather commenced, and then removed to the cellar.

About the middle of February we took fresh horse-manure from the stable, mixed it with an equal proportion of garden loam that had been in the cellar during the Winter, and put it into the box, first removing the roots, and then placing them back exactly as before, and filling up the box to where the stem united with the tubers, with garden loam mixed with a small proportion of the sand. The box was placed near the kitchen window, where the plants had the benefit of the morning sun. The earth was kept moist, but not muddy. They soon produced strong, healthy sprouts. In March they were removed thirty miles in a packet-boat, and kept growing in the house, until the Spring

frosts were over. The "parsonage" had a large yard, without ornament, except the green sward; the ground had been thrown out of a cellar, and was hard and gravelly. We removed the sod about a yard square, and for each plant dug a hole 2½ feet square, and about the same depth. Each hole received half a wheel-barrow load of horse-manure and a bucket of water, and was then filled up with garden loam, leaving the surface a little lower than the surrounding ground. We then removed the roots carefully from the box, and with a sharp knife split the stalks, so as to leave one sprout to each tuber, and planted five of the largest in the holes prepared as above. My husband then made for me strong frames, by sharpening four rough scantling, and driving around each plant about 2 feet apart, nailing lath on each side to support the branches—these were whitewashed. The plants grew very rapidly, and relieved the monotony of the yard. The few cold nights we had after planting, we threw a cloth over the frames. We weeded and loosened the ground around the roots frequently.

In dry weather we watered them every evening after sun-down, with water exposed to the sun during the day—at first by pouring and sprinkling over the plants, and when they grew too high, by watering at the root. Dahlias require warmth and moisture—I prefer a sunny site. They grew remarkably tall, with stalks like small trees, luxuriant branches projecting in every direction through the frames, and presenting a beautiful appearance; the flowers were abundant and perfect, without the dry leaves at the stem, which so often disfigure the flowers. They continued in full bloom until the snow came. The weather was mild that Autumn, and we spread sheets on them when the first frosts nipped vegetation.

We were assured that it was useless to take so much care in preserving the roots, that they would keep in the cellar like potatoes; we made the experiment, and they all rotted. We procured new plants, and cultivated them the same way next year. They did well, but we took them up when the ground was wet, laid them on a balcony to dry in the sun, where they were left until the tubers had withered—then put into dry sand, and placed in a room over the kitchen, where a stove-pipe passed through. When taken out, they were completely dried up, and never vegetated. Since then we have pursued the first described method—with unfailing success. The principal difficulty is in preserving the roots during the Winter; when sprouted they are very tenacious of life. AN "ITINERANT'S" WIFE.

Adams Co., Pa., 1859.

#### Morning Glories for Paint!

We saw last summer, an old building, standing in the rear of a tenant house, which was used for a wash-room and wood-house. A friend of ours, who rented the premises, temporarily, made it a real ornament to the whole place, at an expense of but a few cents worth of twine and seed, and an hour or two of time. The landlord not choosing to paint the building, our friend procured an ounce or so of Morning Glory seed, and sowed close along the side of the building. When they were up, the vines were trained on twine leaders, about eight inches apart, up to the very peak of the roof. We have rarely seen a more beautiful sight than they presented when the foliage entirely covered the building, and the flowers appeared in bloom. Paint or whitewash could not equal it, nor half so thoroughly hide the weather-worn, moss covered old building.



### To Secure Large Specimens of Fruit.

Improved varieties and methods of culture, have so greatly enlarged many kinds of fruit that the stems by which they are attached to the tree or vine, are hardly sufficient to sustain their weight properly, especially if exposed to be tossed and shaken about by the wind. If the stem be loosened or injured in any way, the fruit must suffer to some extent, as the sap necessary for growth is transmitted through this stem. It will, therefore, be well, when very fine specimens are desired for any purpose, to support the weight of the fruit by strings. A small bit of book muslin or gauze, with strings tied at the four corners and attached to the tree, would answer well for peaches, plums and other such fruits.

## IN DOOR WORK.

### Sweeping.

BY ANNA HOPE.

The art of sweeping is one which many who use a broom never learn. It is sometimes said that we may judge of the character of a person from the manner of washing dishes. It may, surely, be equally well learned from the manner of sweeping a room. It is not necessary to raise a cloud of dust, as if we were attempting to imitate the simoom, nor is it necessary to throw a whole house in disorder when doing the week's sweeping. Let the stroke of the broom be short and steady, without any supplementary flourishes, and the dust will, most of it, rise but little above the floor. Draw the broom, not push it forward.

Tea leaves, slightly damp, scattered over a carpet before sweeping, gather the dust about them. So does wet paper, or wet grass, or snow. Snow cannot be used in a warm room. Tea leaves that have soaked in water till they are soft and half decayed, soil carpets. Some persons dampen the broom before using it. If this be done, care must be taken not to strike it against the base board, as the wet dirt will leave its mark.

A large and small broom, a long-handed brush, a feather duster, a silk or old paper-muslin duster, and a dust-pan, are desirable conveniences for all who attend to sweeping. For oil-cloth and all uncarpeted floors, a brush is preferable to a broom, because it removes the dust more thoroughly. A small hand-brush is very useful for stairs, unless they are wholly covered with a carpet, and then a thick broom should be used. The dust from each stair should be swept upon a dust pan, and not from one step to another all the way down. It is almost impossible to sweep stairs clean with a large broom. They need something that can remove the dust from the corners.

Before sweeping a room, cover the articles of furniture which cannot easily be removed, and remove into another room those that are not too large and heavy, after having thoroughly dusted them. Furniture can in this way be preserved longer, and it will look better than if filled with dust like a puff-ball. Be sure and cover books. Spread a sheet over the bed. See that all drawers are shut. Indeed, do not be in the habit of only partially closing them. It betokens a want of thoroughness. Closet doors, too, must be shut—not merely "pushed to." I do not like a heavy broom. Sweeping is hard enough, without any unnecessary burdens. A stiff broom should not be used upon carpets. It wears them too much. For the same reason, give a light touch, and not sweep as if trying to reach the floor beneath the carpet. Pay particular attention to corners and all hiding-places for dust and lint. When the

large broom cannot reach, use a small one. There is no surer indication of untidiness than neglected corners, or dusty nooks beneath bed or bureau, or fire-places full of lint, and hair, and burnt matches. Wipe the furniture with the duster, occasionally shaking the silk or muslin where the dust will not return into the room. If the furniture has been covered, dusting will not prove so disagreeable work as it frequently is. I remember, when I was a child, my mother had a new girl, whose duty it was, among other things, to wait upon the table, and take care of the dining room. My mother gave her particular directions about sweeping and dusting, and left her to the performance of her duties. When Lina had exerted herself to the utmost, and, as she supposed, put the room in the nicest order, she reported progress, and my mother went to the room to examine it, and give her approval. The chairs were covered with dust.

"You have forgotten to dust the chairs," my mother kindly said to her.

"O, no, ma'am; I dusted them, was the reply.

"But they are very dusty now, you see."

"Yes, ma'am, for I swept the room."

"You cannot have dusted since you swept."

"O, no ma'am; I didn't suppose you would want the dust on the carpet. I dusted them all before I swept," said the self-approving girl.

I have often thought of Lina when I have seen the dust lying on unprotected furniture. It seems a pity to brush so much back upon a neatly swept carpet. The head should always be covered when sweeping, and with something that will also protect the neck from the falling dust.

### The Monotony of Housework Relieved.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

Availing myself of the invitation to your female readers, contained in the January *Agriculturist*, I would submit a trifle of my own two years' experience in housekeeping.... Leaving a kind mother, who had relieved me of all care and responsibility in my childhood's home, with but eighteen years over my giddy head, I entered upon the arduous duties of housekeeping with a light heart and willing hands. For the first few weeks, everything was novel and delightful, and I found real enjoyment in attending to our home affairs; but as week after week rolled by, bringing its endless routine of daily duties, the monotony grew irksome, the fetters of care began to corrode my spirits, and I sought for change. The change came in a way which may provoke a smile from your readers. "A horse, a pig, a cow," with a numerous flock of poultry claimed my attention. I became interested in their growth and welfare, and I now spend an hour or two each day in caring for and petting them. My health has improved wonderfully, but my *spirits* more.

To how many youthful housekeepers, and indeed to those of many years' experience do the toils and perplexities attending the "indoor work," prove a source of weariness and discomfort, undermining health of body and mind, till they are often heard to wish, there had never been such a thing as *work* invented, or that they were not obliged to perform any portion of it! My friends, *work* is a true blessing. We were not placed in this busy world to fold our hands in idleness. Our Great Exemplar, when on earth, was never idle, but went about doing good; and motion and activity are essential to every object, which Infinite wisdom has created. Nothing flourishes in idleness. We should work, and work diligently; but not delve and toil incessantly with no rest for body or mind.

It is often, unhappily, the case—perhaps with

farmers more generally than any other class—that both sexes spend their lives in a continual round of wearisome labor, from early dawn till late evening, grasping and saving, depriving themselves of the luxuries, or even comforts of life, thinking after they have obtained yet a little more they will build anew, or enlarge their habitations, purchase new and modern conveniences, and spend the remainder of their days in rest. Ah, how frequently their rest is found in the grave! Just ready to live, they die, leaving their hard earned savings for the contention of greedy relatives, and it may be said with lamentable verity above their uncared for graves, "they have lived in vain." We sincerely hope there will be none who read these pages, of whom this sad truth may ever be written; and those of you, whose daily tasks are becoming laborious and tiresome, leave them at once, dismiss them from mind as well as body—pay a visit to the barn or poultry-yard, talk to the busy flocks you find there; teach them to know and love the hand which feeds and caresses them, and rest assured, you will return to your labors with a light step as well as a light heart, and be amply repaid for all the exertions it cost you.... [Very good suggestions, we think.]

How many housekeepers, both young and old, will try it for the next month, and report the result to the *Ed. Agriculturist*, or to

Litchfield Corners, Me.

MIRNIE MAY.

### About the Feet.

WATER-PROOF BLACKING NOT USEFUL.

A manufacturer sends us some boxes of "Water Proof Blacking"—"warranted to render boots, shoes and all kinds of leather perfectly impervious to moisture," with the request that it should be "favorably noticed in the *American Agriculturist*—and a long advertisement will be inserted." We can not oblige the sender, for two important reasons: First: We never sell notices, and advertisements are never solicited—at least on any such terms. Second: We don't believe in these "water proof blackings," and of course advise people not to use them. As a general thing, blacking of any kind rots leather; and especially is this the case with anything that stops the pores. The leather is injured, and the feet kept cold by the moisture from the feet, which is kept from escaping by stopping the pores with various compounds, tallow, etc. Not unfrequently a gill or more of watery vapor escapes from the feet during a day. The amount varies in different persons, and with the age, physical condition or health, etc. If India rubber boots or those of leather saturated with oil, grease, or other impervious substances be worn, this moisture is in a measure retained—though some of it escapes upward along the legs. Every one accustomed to oil or grease their boots all over, must have noticed that, for a day or two after the application, the socks get nearly wet enough to wring out.

India-rubber over-shoes injure or "rot" leather, as is well known; but it is not the mere contact of the rubber, for that of itself would preserve leather. On the contrary, it is the moisture retained by the rubber which keeps the boots or shoes damp, and eventually destroys them.

Latterly, since we have examined this subject, our practice has been, never to grease boots or shoes, even with tallow, except once or twice on the bottoms and around the sides near the soles; and we are sure they wear much longer than formerly. The parts over the top of the feet are left as open as possible, so that perspiration can freely escape. This leaves the feet dry and comfortable, and the leather rarely rots, but lasts until ac-



usually worn through. If from any cause the boots become very dry and stiff, a little tanner's or neat's-foot oil is applied only to soften them. When necessary to wade through much water, a thin coat of oil is applied to the upper leather to make the water "slip off," but not enough to saturate the pores. When rubbers are needed, they are removed as soon as circumstances will admit, to allow the leather to dry speedily. Nothing adds more to comfort, health, and durability of leather, than a frequent change of socks—two or three times a day when the feet are continually exposed to much water, or when health is poor. The dry socks absorb the moisture, to the benefit of both feet and leather.

The best protection for the feet is a pair of leather shoes or boots with thick uppers and especially thick soles—so thick as not to allow the entrance of water, or the free passage of heat or cold, but the pores so open as to allow moisture to escape. Coarse cow-hide boots or shoes are not only cheap, but are philosophical.

Females, and men or children who are exposed to the wet ground only part of the day, should keep thick shoes to put on when going out; or have a pair of India rubber sandals (shoes with straps and openings over the top of the foot,) and put these on *only* when going upon wet, damp, or cold ground.

### Recipes.

#### Cooking Salt Codfish.

Late one evening we called unexpectedly upon a farmer in Western New-Jersey. Before retiring, we overheard, in another room, the good housewife anxiously inquiring of her husband: "What in the world shall I get for breakfast? Our visitor, I believe, don't eat salt pork or junk, and I have nothing else in the house but salt codfish." We wanted to tell her that she could provide nothing more acceptable. This idea, that salt codfish is a last and worst resort, is shared by others as well as by West Jersey people, especially those along the sea-board, where the article has always been abundant. Not so at the West. We remember when a boy, before canal navigation opened easy access to eastern markets, that salt codfish, like rice, was kept as a choice resort when visitors came; and we have never lost our respect for this article of diet, which we have heard so much abused in latter years. But to be good, it must be rightly prepared. Like coffee and many other kinds of food, its relish depends a good deal upon the "fixings" and fixing. Of itself, it is healthful and nourishing, if it can be made to slip down easily. With proper preparation, we relish it about eight times a week! We like it thus: First, buy a good fish—one with little or no odor, and of uniform color throughout. Any spots darker than the rest indicate poor curing, and will perhaps spoil the flavor of the whole fish. Look for these blemishes even around the edges. The light-colored flesh is usually best. The fish is to be picked pretty fine, and placed in cold water over night. (If this be not done beforehand, it should be picked very fine, put in cold water, and slowly heated, and then boiled briskly to get out the salt.) In the morning pour off the soaking water, and rinse with more cold water, which will remove any disagreeable flavor remaining from the soaking water. Next, pick it into very fine bits, put in cold water, heat and scald. Pour off the water, and put in some milk, and heat. To this add a good supply of flour stirred in water, and cook it thoroughly. Here is the most common failure—the flour is not cooked enough, but is left with a raw taste. Just before removing from the fire, stir in one, two or three

beaten eggs, and a little butter, with more milk, if necessary, to leave it just thick enough to dip out with a spoon. It may need a little salt. You thus have a dish that tastes well, digests well, nourishes well, and is more economical than most meat dishes—just the thing for breakfast.

**CODFISH CUTLETS.**—M. O. Tanner, Rockland Co., N. Y., sends us this recipe. Soak pieces of salted codfish in water until it is quite soft, and sufficiently freshened to be palatable. Remove the skin and large bones, and dry it with a napkin. Make a batter of eggs and flour, coat the fish with it, and fry brown in butter.

#### Mock Mince Pies.

Said by "an itinerant's wife" who sends it, to be an improvement on the genuine article. Mix 1 cup of sugar, 1 of molasses,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  of bread crumbs, with 1 cup of good cider vinegar, 4 of water and 3 eggs; add 1 cup raisins (seeded), 1 ounce cloves, and 1 ounce soda. This quantity will be sufficient for three pies.

#### White Lemon Cakes.

Contributed for the *Agriculturist*, and highly recommended by G. Nichols, of Madison Co., N. Y.: Rub well together 6 ounces of butter,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of flour; add  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of (well beaten) eggs, 1 pound pulverized sugar, 12 drops essence of lemon, and 2 drachms carbonate of ammonia. The ingredients should be mixed into a paste, with as little handling as possible, rolled out about as thick as a silver dollar, cut into cakes, and baked on buttered tins, with a gentle heat.

#### Shrewsbury Cake.

By the same correspondent: To 1 pound of flour add 10 ounces pulverized sugar, 10 ounces butter, 2 eggs, half a nutmeg (grated), and an equal quantity of ground cinnamon, or mace and cinnamon, mixed.

[The following six recipes are contributed to the *American Agriculturist* by "A Farmer's Wife," of Dutchess Co., N. Y.]

#### Graham Biscuits or Bread (no yeast or soda.)

Take 2 quarts of good Graham flour, put it in a kneading pan, make a hole in the middle of the flour and pour in boiling water (stirring it all the time) until nearly half the flour is scalded and made as stiff as it can well be stirred with a spoon; then pour in cold water, mixing with the hand at the same time, until the mass is cool. Then mix in the flour around the edge, and mold up in the same manner, as soft as ordinary biscuit. Bake in rather a quick oven. Some think them better to pierce each one with a fork before baking, and not to let them touch each other in the pan. They can be eaten while fresh with impunity [in proper quantity]; they are not good when stale.

#### Indian Biscuits.

Take 1 quart of cold Indian Mush, or Hasty pudding; put it into a pan containing about the same quantity of either coarse or fine wheat flour, add milk or sweet cream sufficient to make the mush thin, say  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint; then mix in the flour and make up into biscuits as soft as you can well handle them and bake in a quick oven 20 minutes. Cold boiled hominy with flour alone, mixed and made into biscuits, makes nice breakfast cakes.

#### Rice Bread.

Take one teacupfull of rice boiled in water until soft—if for breakfast it should be boiled over night—or use cold rice left from a previous dinner; mix with it 2 beaten eggs, a little more than a pint of milk, as much less than a pint of Indian meal, as you have over the pint of milk, and 2 tablespoonfuls of flour. This will fill 2 middle

sized square tins, and requires to be baked nearly an hour. I think every one who appreciates good wholesome bread, will acknowledge this to be worth recommending.

#### To make plain Pie-crust.

Take light bread dough sufficient to cover your pie-plates and mix in butter, say a piece rather larger than a walnut to each pie. If sweet cream is at hand, 2 tablespoonfuls added will be an improvement. Roll the crust out thin, and if you wish, spread on a little more butter and sprinkle with a little flour; then fold over and roll again; if rolled and folded several times it will be the better. Mashed potatoes mixed in the dough to make it seem short, are also an improvement. Indeed a most excellent crust can be made in this way, one which will not cause Dyspepsia and one which Dyspeptics can eat without injury.

#### Bread Pudding.

Take stale bread and pour on milk sufficient to soak it soft, but not to make it very thin; add any kind of fruit either fresh or dried, previously soaked until your pudding is pretty well filled with it. Put in a pudding cloth and boil it one hour and then with good cream and sugar, or a rich sauce if preferred, you have a pudding that will vie with any Christmas affair, and be far more wholesome, as it is without suet, wine, or spices.

#### A Plain Cake.

To be made with either fine or coarse flour, and sugar or molasses. One teacupfull of molasses; 1 of sour cream; 1 of water; and 1 teaspoonful of soda, with flour enough to make it as stiff as common stirred cake. The soda is to be dissolved in 2 or 3 tablespoonfuls of water, and added the last thing just as it is to be set into the oven.

#### A Good Plain Cake.

Contributed to the *Agriculturist* by a lady reader, in Worcester Co., Mass. To 2-3 of a cup of butter, add  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups of sugar, rolled fine, 2 eggs, 1 cup sweet or sour milk,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoonful soda, spice to suit the taste, and add flour to make it about as thick as batter for pancakes.

#### Plain Ginger Bread.

By the same: To a cup of molasses add a piece of butter the size of a large walnut, the butter being melted, put in 1 cup sour milk, and a teaspoonful of soda. Spice with cloves or ginger; mix in enough flour to make a thick batter, and bake slowly.

#### Liquid Glue.

M. Kelly, Fayette Co., Ind., prepares this article by dissolving glue in boiling water, using only water enough to reduce the glue to liquid form. It is then removed from the fire, and sufficient alcohol poured in to bring it to the right consistence, stirring it briskly. It is kept in a bottle with a piece of India rubber or bladder tied over the mouth, and will, he says, preserve its properties for years. It is thus always ready for use without the trouble of preparing, when wanted. In very cold weather it may need to be warmed a little.

An interesting scene must be such a one as is reported to have been witnessed at an agricultural fair, held at Hopkinsville, Tenn. The account says that ten brothers, named Brown, all mounted on fine gray horses, rode into the amphitheatre, and displayed their horsemanship, all being good riders. The eldest was aged forty, the youngest twenty. They had not all been together for fifteen years. Their mother was present, and they reined up in front of the matron, and saluted her, while she shed tears of joy and pride.



## BOYS &amp; GIRLS' COLUMNS.

## Uncle Frank's Page.

FLOWERS AND FRUIT.—PEOPLE "RUNNING TO VINES."

It is not the tree that bears the most leaves from which the farmer is sure to gather the most fruit and the best. I have often seen apple trees all covered with leaves, that did not produce a single apple. And here is an orange tree, right under my window—it has leaves enough for half a dozen trees, and very handsome ones they are, too. But as for oranges, it has none to show. It has exhausted itself in foliage, I suspect, just as some garden vegetable do—"run to vines," as the farmers call it.

Now, leaves are very good things in their way. But fruit is better, and I must say that I have no fancy for people that incline to "run to vines," and are indifferent as to the matter of the fruit. Here is a person who will talk (oh, how charmingly!) of some good deed that ought to be done, and must be done. He will expend as much wind upon it, as would be necessary to drive a blacksmith's bellows a full hour. But there the matter rests. Here ends that man's virtuous zeal. What a pity he has wasted all his vitality in leaves.

I have made up my mind from pretty close observation, kept up for many years, that, as a general rule (liable to exceptions, of course) those who talk the most do the least. I don't like great talkers. They seem to me like drones in a bee-hive. They do the buzzing, while the rest of the family get the honey and store it away.

"Oh, what a good Christian Mr. So-and-So is!" we often hear persons say—persons they generally are, who look rather at the surface than the center of things—"how sweetly he talks." Yes, "sweetly," here we have the flowers, too, as well as the leaves. "He seems to live on the very verge of heaven. Oh, I do so love to hear him talk. How I wish I could be such a good man as he is." But, my dear miss, what has this dear, good, pious, semi-angelic man actually accomplished? He has said a great many good things. Show me some that he has done. Take me to some house where he has saved a family from hunger by his charity. Show me a poor, wayward, erring girl, for whom he has found an asylum, where she is safe from the snares that once beset her daily path. Point me out some pupil in the Sabbath-school, brought there by his persevering efforts. Can you do that, my friend? "Perhaps, indeed, I am sure I could, if I took time to think." Well, take time to think. Meanwhile I give it as my conviction, that Mr. So-and-So talks too much, and that far too large a proportion of what you extol as the most excellent of all the grafted fruit in the orchard, is mere foliage. He talks too much—he talks too much.

And, by the way, I'm talking too much myself, I fear. I guess, I had better stop right where I am—better go and see how Dinah is getting along with her rheumatism.

## ON BEING ONE'S-SELF AND BEING SOMEBODY ELSE.

It would seem that the easiest thing in the world is to be natural, to be one's self, and nobody else. But it is not so. Affectation is a plant that grows and flourishes in too many gardens that are graced with the fairest and sweetest of flowers. Now, you must not quarrel with Uncle Frank, if he tells you just what he thinks of it, and points out with more of plainness and frankness than some persons would employ, the different phases which affectation puts on, and how you are in danger yourselves from its influence. Let me put you on your guard against such blemishes, especially, as these:

1. Don't affect the least grain of knowledge beyond that which you possess, of men, books or history. It is bad morality always, and often proves very bad policy. A good story illustrating the policy of such a habit, is told of a girl whose parents had been traveling in Europe. "They must have seen a great many famous things, and met a multitude of famous people," some one remarked to her, "Did they visit the Dardanelles?" "Oh yes," was the reply, "they had the pleasure of dining with them."

And that was not a more ludicrous blunder than another made in history, who remarked that a certain family who were the topic of conversation, emigrated to this country at a very early period—she was not quite certain how early, but she was pretty sure it was in the time of William the Conqueror.

2. Don't treat a young gentleman as if he was a rattlesnake. Don't affect an extravagant degree of shyness. It is not natural, you don't feel half of it. Moreover, the young man knows you don't feel it; and your indifferent air towards him is not adapted to inspire him with unqualified admiration of your accomplishments. You need not be familiar with him; but pray be civil and lady-like.

3. In speaking, don't mince your words. Door is not pronounced *dor* in any dictionary I have ever consulted. Girl is not such a hard word to speak, as to require you to twist your lips into such an uncouth shape, in order to

give it its proper sound. *Beautiful* is a very expressive word, and deserves well of those who use it. Nevertheless, it can only claim three syllables. Don't bestow four upon it.

4. In company when you are asked to play, and you intend to play, do so without urging. If you don't intend to play, say so, modestly, but firmly, and as if you meant it, as you do.

5. Don't get into the habit of using extravagant expressions. They are not natural. Generally they spring rather from affectation than from enthusiasm; but whatever tree may produce the fruit, the fruit itself is extremely distasteful. Spare your superlatives. You remember that sunset you described the other night. Well, now let me tell you just what I think of that description. That part of it which you felt—the first part—was well done. You spoke naturally then. But the rest, pardon me, was very poorly done. It was over loaded with adjectives, most of them advanced to their highest power; and I really thought you grew weaker as you grew intense.

6. Say "sweet—pretty," as seldom as possible. If you don't say it at all, so much the better.

7. When you come to the table, *eat*. Don't play with your food. Don't spend too much of the time in disciplining your fingers to hold your fork and spoon in a questionably genteel, and plainly ungraceful and unnatural attitude.

8. Don't faint any oftener than you can help. The presence of a wasp, or a spider, is hardly sufficient to produce any other kind of fainting but that which is looked upon by most sensible, matter-of-fact people, as spurious.

## STAND FROM UNDER!

That's what the sailor says, when he is going to throw something heavy from aloft; and so I say to some, I don't know how many to include in the number—of my little nieces. I had a talk with our venerable grandmother the other day. I found her, by the way, in an extremely pleasant mood. She was knitting; and I have always noticed that other things being equal, old ladies are always happiest with their knitting needles. I told her, I hoped she would not consider it an encroachment on her department, if I rapped the knuckles of some of the girls, for the want of neatness displayed by them. "Of course not," she said, "but that subject is down on my list, and will come in its place." Well, I was glad of that. I don't like to find fault, especially with my friends, the girls.



THE MOCKING BIRD.

St. Augustine, March 1859. My banishment here, by the physician, is not an unpleasant exile after all. I am charmed with this place. Now, while my friends in New-York, are slowly emerging from Winter, we are enjoying all the luxury of Summer weather. I wish you could visit this part of the country during the present month. It is now the season for roses; and oh, what a variety there are here. The yellow jasmine, a climbing plant, is now in bloom. It is one of the sweetest flowers of which our country can boast. It grows in the woods and fills the air with its aromatic perfume. The magnolia is not in bloom yet. But the tree itself, without the flower, with its bright green leaves, is very beautiful. If I were a Floridan, I am sure I should be proud of at least three things: the yellow jasmine, the magnolia, and the mocking bird. I am greatly in love with this southern warbler. My heart warms towards him more and more, as I become more familiar with him in his own native forest. I have sat for an hour together enjoying his sweet notes. I did not know till lately that he was any thing more than a mocker. But he is. I have heard more than one *improviser* his music—make it up as he went along, without any regard to the songs of other birds. He

is almost equal to the nightingale, in the variety of his music.

## LITTLE ANNA'S QUARREL—HOW IT BEGAN AND HOW IT ENDED.

Little, foolish quarrels—how many of them there are among boys and girls, and how easily they might be checked, if the dear children were a little more thoughtful. Oh, if they would only beware of the *first* harsh word, we should hear of very few little quarrels. Listen to a dialogue between an excellent mother and her little daughter. It will be instructive to you, I think, and will show you just where the evil commences, and where you should be most strictly on your guard.

ANNA. I don't love her, mother. I don't love her at all. She is a mean thing, and ought to be ashamed.

MOTHER. What has she done, my dear?

A. She called me "good-for-nothing little hussy."

M. (*smiling*). That was wrong, certainly; especially, as you are not a good-for-nothing little hussy, but a pretty good girl. And she said this, too, without any provocation on your part?

A. Yes, ma'am. I didn't say anything that she ought to have been so angry about.

M. Have you any objection to telling me exactly what you did say?

A. (*hesitatingly*). No, dear mother.

M. Well, then, suppose you give me the whole story, from beginning to end. I can trust my dear daughter. I don't think it possible she can deceive me.

A. We were playing in Mr. Ray's yard, when Nellie's brother came home from a long ramble in the woods, and brought us ever so many wild flowers. Nelly went and got her Botany, and we stopped playing, and began to analyze the flowers.

M. I am glad to see that you can turn your studies into amusements, my dear.

A. Among the flowers was one which Nelly said she was acquainted with; but I didn't recollect ever having seen it before. She called it the *Convallaria bifolia*, [Solomon's seal.] I went over the description in the book carefully, and compared it with the plant, so as to see for myself whether this name was correct or not.

M. That was right, Nelly might have been wrong. Besides, the young botanist should analyze every plant, whether he knows its genus or species or not. And you found the description agreed with the flower?

A. No, mother, not quite.

M. What difference did you discover? The *Bifolia* is pretty distinctly marked.

A. The book said *two-leaved*. This specimen had three. So I told Nelly it couldn't be the *Bifolia*. She insisted that it was, and said she had seen a good many of these flowers growing together in her father's woods, and that among them she had noticed several with three leaves (*Hesitates and hangs down her head*).

M. And then—

A. (*Bursting into tears, and covering her face with her apron*). Oh, mother! mother! forgive me. I have been very foolish and very wicked. I said I didn't believe Nelly Carson had all the knowledge there was on botany shut up in her little head. Oh, how cruel. How could I have said it? Dear mother, I'll try not to do so again.

M. There, wipe away your tears. I shall not punish you. You have sufficiently punished yourself. Ask God to forgive you. Go, and make up with Nelly,

and remember, how little quarrels begin, and check them in the bud—yes, before the bud is started, even.

Uncle Frank don't often write poetry; and when he does, it is usually because he can't very well help it—when he is in a condition similar to that boy in school, who didn't whistle—"it whistled itself." Here is a little lyric, which was woven in that way. Will the Agriculturist boys and girls listen to it?

## OUR LITTLE BIRD.

We have a little bird at home,  
Sweetly he sings:  
Where'er his tiny footsteps tread,  
His music rings.

No cage confines our little bird,  
He's free as the air;  
He sings his lay all over the house,  
Sings everywhere.

Indeed, he is a merry sprite,  
Brimful of glee;  
He charms us by his merry strains;  
All life is he.

God bless the darling of our hearts,  
God bless our bird;  
Long may the music of that voice  
With us be heard.





LEARNING TO SEW

Last month we printed a note from cousin Mary, who had found Grandmother at Uncle John's, in the City, and she promised further reports. While waiting to hear from her, a friend in Europe sent us the above picture of one of the Grandmothers "over the sea," which pleased us so much that we immediately had it engraved to present to our young readers, for we know they will love to look at it. Our friend did not tell us a word about this picture, who made it, or where it was made. He simply said, "It speaks for itself," and so we think it does. We leave you dear children to study it and answer: What does it teach you? P. S.—Our friend and contributor Anna Hope, happened to see the engraver's proof of the picture and here is what she wrote down about it:

How satisfied Grandmother looks as she watches little Sarah darning her apron. I am sure she considers her quite a remarkable seamstress, and Sarah is evidently taking great care to please her Grandmother. It is no small accomplishment to be able to sew well and to mend neatly, and it is quite as necessary in these days of Sewing Machines as it was many years ago, before they were invented. I am glad Sarah has a Grandmother to love her, and I hope she is a good girl and ready to wait upon her, and do all she can for her comfort. My Grandmother always wore such a cap as this old lady wears. I remember how nice these caps looked with their crimped borders. And Sarah's dress is just such as I wore. That high-neck apron we called a *tire*.

You will see that the old lady's face is very pleasant. She has been a good tempered woman. We doubt not she is one who has neither scolded nor fretted, but has cheerfully borne the troubles of life. If she had been ill-tempered it would have been written on her face. Children are all the time making their own faces—the faces they will wear if they live to be old. If they wish to be beautiful even in old age, as well as in middle life and youth, they must not allow themselves to do that which will leave an ugly mark. Anger, impatience, untruthfulness, all write themselves in the face for every observer to read. So do kindness, gentleness and love. The homeliest face is agreeable if it is written over with pleasant things. I think Sarah resembles her Grandmother. If she lives to be as old, I hope she will look as cheerful and happy.

#### The Editor with his young Readers.

MAY DAY has come again. This, to those of us born and brought up in America, is not so full of meaning as it is to the girls and boys living beyond the sea. We regret to know that of late years, even there, May Day is not the general holiday it once was. Formerly, when this season arrived, every body, old and young, joined to celebrate the approach of Spring, by choosing a May Queen, dancing round the May pole festooned with flowers, and engaging in various sports and recreations. We wish there might be more play days, when we could join the young people in a merry romp at blind man's buff, or some other of their stirring sports—enough to rub the rust

off a little. The nearest we can come to play is to sit down and have this friendly chat with you once a month, and a pleasant recreation we find it. After toiling away, day and night, to interest grown up people, talking with them about work, we feel, in sitting down to chat with you, something as we imagine our horse, Jim, used to, when, after he had been shut up for a long time, eating dry hay and oats, we let him out into the pasture to get a nip of the fresh grass. How he would run just for the sake of running! Just so our pen sometimes gets to running.

But our thoughts and pen do not gallop quite so blithely now, as they have always done hitherto at this season—except one Spring six years ago when just at this time we were returning from the West, where we had been to bury the last remains of one little boy by the side of another one who had died, and was buried there when we were on a visit two years before. That was a sad Spring!

Very many of our young friends kindly wrote sympathizing letters when we recently told them about being in those "corners;" and many inquiries have come as to whether we had got away from the doctor or not. We can not respond individually to these letters, but we are glad to say that, though the doctor kept his eye on us a long time—almost all Winter—we have not seen him lately. He doubtless thinks we are improving, and we think and feel so too. But in getting thoroughly well again, we are trying to do as our writing teacher used to direct us, viz.: "to make haste slowly," and so we do not work so hard as formerly. Already the skies look brighter. We feel ourselves "good for twenty or thirty years," of effective work yet—if our life is spared.

#### TWENTY YEARS AHEAD!

How the imagination runs on to the future, and paints it as on a panorama before us. Twenty years! That seems like a long period to you, does it not? But it will quickly pass. Time flies more and more swiftly every year. As you become more absorbed in active life, the less will you notice its flight. Now, you look ahead and think what you will do, and what improvements in conduct and character you will make next year, or five years hence. But then you will be looking just as far ahead again, and ever regretting wasted hours and days, and months and years in the past. Remember this, and do well, what you find to do to-day.... Twenty years ahead! Why then you boys and girls of ten, twelve, or fifteen years will be men and women of thirty to thirty-five years, at work on your farms, or in your shops, or offices, and we shall perhaps be at this same table, working away at the thirty-eighth volume of the *Agriculturist*, still hunting up new articles, new engravings, and new matters of interest to send to your fire-sides. These are curious yet pleasing thoughts, are they not? How the mind gallops away when we let it have the reins..... Putting our hand into our Boys and Girls, letter box, the first thing that comes out is a marked item, in a letter from a western lady which we have headed:

#### THE BOY WHO LOVES TO WHISTLE.

She writes: "I wonder if the children all like to whistle as well as our little Burdett does. Not long since, he came to his mother, and looking her very earnestly in the face; said, 'Ma, I want to go and live with the *Agriculturist*.' 'Why?' I asked. 'Because' he answered, 'the *Agriculturist* believes in whistling; and Carrie doesn't like to have me whistle here.' 'Never mind, my son,' I replied, 'it will be warm weather sometime, and then you may go and sit on the wood-pile and whistle and whittle to your heart's content.' The child's eyes brightened. Evidently it was a joyous thought with him, that there was a time in prospect when he might whistle and whittle as much as he pleased, with no one to say, 'Please don't make such a noise;' or, 'Please don't make such a litter!'..... That boy is one of the kind we like, after all, for he is one of those "who must be doing something." Let him do it. We hope he will yet make a noise in the world that will be heard even further than a steam whistle. Let him keep doing—provided he does not very foolishly imitate one of those

#### BOYS WHO TRY TO EQUAL A MONKEY.

There is in almost every neighborhood at least one boy, whom his companions consider the funny boy. He always has some joke, or prank, or comical face, with which to raise a laugh, and he is generally successful, because his fellows expect to laugh, when he does anything to make fun. When we see one of these boys we are reminded of what our schoolmaster once said to a boy who, though naturally kind hearted, as such boys usually are, was continually causing much trouble by his antics during school-time. "Thomas," said he, "I think with continued practice, you may at length equal a monkey."..... Not a very high mark to aim at, is it? Fun should not be followed as a business, but kept as we keep matches, to "light up with" occasionally. However much the wit of the "funny" boy or man may be laughed at, he is seldom respected, nor can he usually make many friends. But with all his faults we think even the comic al boy greatly more respectable and loveable, than one of those

#### BOYS WHO TRY TO EQUAL A BULL-DOG.

We accidentally overheard such a boy while walking homeward a few evenings since. "I'll fight him any time," said he, and the rest of his conversation, which was very profane, showed him to be a boy who thought it a worthy object of ambition to be able to pound somebody very hard. Now, although you may at some time have heard boys praise a "fighter," did you ever really lose one? We have seen several men who made fighting a business. We did not meet them at church, nor in a gentleman's parlor. They would have been as much out of place there, that is as fighting men, as a *threshing* machine in full blast would be. We saw them standing about the doors of grog-shops, where they seemed perfectly at home. Certainly that can not be very desirable, which unfits men to be loved, or even to be in the society of the good and the respectable. No! no! my boy, if you want to beat somebody, do it in learning lessons, or writing, or even flying kites or skating, but let only the "dogs delight to bark and bite."

#### "FATHER! STEER STRAIGHT TO ME, FATHER."

Last week (April 5th) we attended, at the house of a friend, the funeral of a little child that, after suffering for many weeks, had taken its departure to the "better land." The Pastor offered a few words of consolation to the bereaved parents. He referred to the often inexplicable dealings of Providence in taking away our innocent prattlers, when we can see no reason for the dispensation. One reason given was, that it is often necessary to remove our most prized treasures to Heaven that our hearts may be turned thither. An illustrative incident he gave, though he said he had read it, was new to us, and left a deep impression. A fisherman was accustomed to go out in a



boat with his family and spend the day at a distance from the shore. As there were frequent fogs, one of the number was usually left at home to ring a bell as a signal. On one occasion a little son remained on shore. During the day a thick fog settled down upon the water and the fishers attempted to reach the land. But the mists grew deeper and darker, and after rowing vainly in all directions, despair had nearly suspended their efforts. Just then a little voice came through the darkness, "Father! steer straight for me, Father, and you'll get home." The father renewed his efforts, and by steering straight in the direction of the oft repeated call, he reached the desired haven. Not long after the little lad was taken away by death. The father, a wicked man, having no hope in this life or that which is to come, was filled with despondency. Clouds, mists and darkness seemed to close in around him on every side. While thus situated he seemed to hear from heavenward, "Father! steer straight to me, Father, and you'll get home." He obeyed the admonition, and turned his frail bark, tossed upon life's boisterous billows, towards the haven of eternal rest. So, said the speaker, it is probable that our little ones are often taken away to that higher sphere, whence we may mentally hear their cherub voices calling, "Father, Mother, steer straight towards me, and you'll get home."

LORENZO DOW ON BAD THOUGHTS.

Somebody once said to Lorenzo Dow, who was a very eccentric strolling preacher; "Mr. Dow, I don't know what to do. Bad thoughts trouble me very much. They come into my head, and I don't know how to keep them out. How can I help doing wrong, if it is wrong to have bad thoughts?" Mr. Dow's reply was: "We can't prevent birds from flying over our heads, but we can keep them from building nests in our hair." Do you ask: "How can you drive away these thoughts, and keep them from making their nests in your minds?" Why, just as we exclude thistles from the land, by putting in so much good seed that there is no room left for them to grow. Keep the mind busy with something innocent and useful, and leave no place for the intruders.

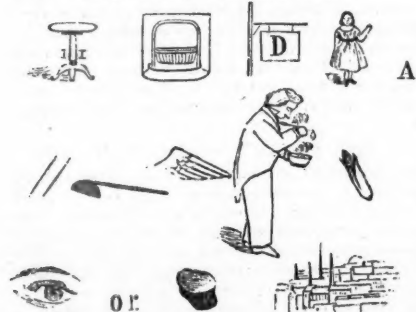
#### Problems for the Boys and Girls.

Our puzzling *rebus* of last month seems to have amused a good many grown-up people as well as little folks, and we offer another, perhaps not so difficult as No. 37, but probably enough so for the younger boys and girls. We will also add here for

NO. 38—A RIDDLE.

A shoemaker once made shoes without leather, With all the four elements joined together; There were FIRE, and WATER and EARTH too and AIR, And most of his customers wanted two pair.

NO. 39—A NEW ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



PROB. 37 (a Rebus) has puzzled many a reader as we have good reason to know from the number of letters received concerning it. We thought the rebus difficult enough to puzzle almost everybody, and must express a little surprise at the number of correct answers already received. We suspect those who succeeded have realized the truth of the sentiment of the rebus. Aunt Sue's letter so fully explains the rebus, and the mode of studying out such puzzles, that we need say no more about it.

AUNT SUE'S NOTE ABOUT REBUS 37.

MY DEAR MR. EDITOR:

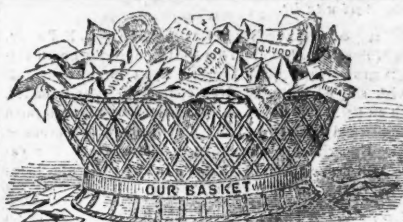
I do like hieroglyphic Rebuses, and when our friend—*Agriculturist* for April—arrived yesterday, I attacked the Rebus first. Let me tell you my experience over it. My thoughts ran somewhat thus: "Oh! that is some one sick-a-bed evidently, from the looks of that little table with physic on it;—let's see, 'sick and purse,'—'ill and purse.'—No. Can it be a Jew ill? 'Jewels and money.' 'Eve-ear-ant—swineherd? Corn-husk!' (well, I can't make a great deal of sense out of all that). 'E are bench, one D bears hyphen BA in a parenthesis!' Well! if there is anything "worth remembering" in that, I should like to know it! "Supper was announced and so I laid down the paper hopelessly. Just before bed time

I took it up again; for "don't give it up" is my motto, and I didn't see why I couldn't find it out as well as the next person. At length my efforts were rewarded, and I discovered "Patient's and purse Eve ear ant's will pea E are (P.E.R) form one D bears, minus (b a)," or "Patience and perseverance will perform wonders." And my success bore ample testimony to the truth of the motto thus found out. Let us have another.

Yours truly, AUNT SUE.

Brooklyn, N. Y., April 2, 1859.

Correct answers have been also received up to April 16, from: Frank Morrell; F. F. Woodward; S. Libbey; W. H. W.; F. L. Strong; Edward C. Hiaman; A. Reader; Joseph Flowers; Charles Flowers; J. T. Kelsey; M. A. Elliott; Hiram S. Safford; three readers in Worcester, Mass.; H. P. A. and S. D. M.; Eliza J. Marshall; Polly A. Montague; H. S. Holmes; and Charlie Ball, (who writes that for the last part of the puzzle, he had to imitate the 'Professor,' who fell into a well, and worked himself out by Algebra!)



Into which are thrown all sorts of paragraphs—such as NOTES and REPLIES to CORRESPONDENTS, with Useful or Interesting Extracts from their Letters, together with Gleanings of various kinds from various sources.

**Catalpa or Bean Tree.**—C. Pulsifer, Christian Co., Ill. This tree is of moderate size, seldom reaching more than 30 to 35 feet in height with wide spreading branches. Its leaves are in shape much like a bean leaf, and its long seed capsules resemble bean pods—hence the name "bean tree." It flowers freely in June, at which season it is quite ornamental. It is not perfectly hardy in this latitude, the young shoots being often winter-killed, but grows more hardy with age. Though not generally planted we esteem it highly.

**Farmer, Spare that Oak.**—P. W. Cook, Ash-tabula Co., O., writing about the prejudice against oak trees in open fields, as not being profitable, states that he has two oaks which furnish more food for pigs, than the same ground which the trees occupy, would produce if planted with corn.

**Register of the Fruit Yard.**—Vulcan, Hartford Co., Md., suggests that a plan of the fruit yard or orchard be made, each variety being named in its place; the plan to be kept for reference, instead of depending upon the labels attached to the trees, which are easily lost. The idea is a good one. Most nurserymen have such a plan in addition to the labels.

**Dwarf Trees, How far apart?**—R. Craig, Indiana Co., Pa. From ten to twelve feet apart is a proper distance to set dwarfs, and deep enough to cover the roots at their junction with the tree, this being the depth at which trees stand naturally.

**Mildew on Gooseberries.**—M. A. Riley, Columbiana Co., O. Gooseberries appear to be afflicted most by mildew in dry seasons. In the moist climate of England, where this fruit is raised in the greatest excellence, mildew is scarcely known. Mulching, that is, covering the ground around the roots with straw, leaves or tan-bark, keeps the surface moist, and is used as a preventive of this blight.

**Caps over Currant Bushes, etc.**—B. Ewing, Marquette Co., Wis. was very much annoyed last season by the depredations of the birds. They came in flocks, and of almost every description, to feed upon the currants and raspberries which had been cultivated with much care. After trying many expedients, the bushes were at last covered with cloth caps, which, when properly arranged, excluded the birds, and also proved beneficial to the fruit, making it sweeter, and preventing it from drying on the bushes.

**Peach Tree Borer.**—E. R. Gilbert, New-Haven Co., Conn. The insects producing this worm deposit their eggs in this latitude during the latter part of July and the month of August.

**Destroying Caterpillars on Trees.**—A. L. Risley, Ill., recommends applying a mixture of soft soap and turpentine to the places where they have commenced making their nests. They are often found in the forks of the limbs, and resemble a small tuft of cotton. The mixture may be readily applied by using a long-handled swab, made of cotton batting.

**Another White Strawberry.**—D. Habel, West Chester Co., N. Y., says he has found among the Highlands of the Hudson River, a variety of white strawberries, larger than the native red, very sweet and high flavored. The leaves, specimens of which were forwarded are small, bright glossy green, and deeply ribbed. Perhaps it would be better to prove them one year longer before deciding to distribute them.

**Hanging up Geraniums.**—W. H. Riker, Saratoga Co., N. Y., states that he has succeeded three years past in keeping the scarlet Geraniums by the method recommended by Mr. Downing, viz.: hanging them up by the "heels" in the darkest part of the cellar. Other correspondents say they have succeeded equally well.

**Kohl Rabi.**—N. B. Martin. This plant resembles a turnip growing out of ground on a cabbage stalk. It is cultivated like a turnip, though sown earlier, and cooked similarly. It is best for use when half to two-thirds grown, say about the first of August in this latitude. See Illustration and description in vol. 16, page 209, also on page 4 of this volume.

**Cut Worm on Cabbages.**—Andrew M. Gates, Jr., North Branford, recommends sowing a circle of either stone or shell lime, around each plant to prevent the cut worm. He says it has succeeded where other means have failed.

**Whale-oil Soap for Borers.**—A "Jamaica Plain, (Mass.) Farmer," writes us strongly urging the use of a solution of one pint of whale-oil soap to a gallon of water, applied with a cloth or brush, both Spring and Fall, to the trunks of fruit trees, as an effectual protection from borers.

**Carrots for Coffee.**—Mr. Charles M. Buttolph, Lee, Co., Ill., writes that after trying various substitutes for coffee, he has at last found carrots to answer the purpose very well. They are prepared by washing, sliced lengthwise quite thin, and roasted in the oven until about the color of roasted coffee, and brittle enough to grind well. A tablespoonful is sufficient to make coffee for five or six persons. (?) It should boil about five minutes and requires nothing to make it clear.

**Large Ears of King Philip Corn.**—George Haigh, Orange Co., N. Y., forwarded fine specimens of this corn, selected from his crop. He states that the seed was planted the 2d of June, and harvested the first week in September, the product being over 97 bushels of shelled corn per acre.

**Great Yield of Buckwheat.**—D. B. Stevens, Locust Township, Pa., reports the size and product of a single stalk of buckwheat gathered by him, thus: Weight of stalk 3½ lbs., number of kernels, 4,000. This certainly is at the rate of—a great many bushels to the acre.

**Feeding Young Lambs.**—J. Johnston, Ontario Co., after having tried the method for feeding young lambs suggested in the March *Agriculturist*, (page 70), as well as other modes, has at last from experience come to the very good conclusion, that the best way to feed lambs is through the ewes; in other words, to allow the ewes 1 lb. grain each, daily, during their pregnancy if fed with straw, less if hay be given. This, he says, not only fits the ewe for nursing her lamb well, but also adds to her growth and the weight of her fleece.

**Disease of Young Lambs.**—Ranchero, Chautauque Co., N. Y., inquires for information concerning the proper treatment of his lambs. He writes that when several days old they are attacked suddenly, apparently with pain in the bowels, a viscid mucous flows copiously from the mouth; they lie on the side, with the head stretched back, bleating with each paroxysm of pain, and in six or eight hours they die.

**Giving the Bees a Hint.**—S. P. Campbell, Minnesota, writes that he found the drones remaining during the middle of September after brood time, thereby preventing the honey from gaining in the hive. Thinking that the bees were negligent, he killed about a dozen drones as they were entering the hive, and the next day he found the hive entirely cleared of drones, the workers having destroyed the rest. The hive then filled with honey very rapidly. Mr. C., would like to know some means of preventing swarms leaving after being hived.

**Patent Churns.** (Johnson's and others.)—In response to several correspondents, we answer that we are unable to give particulars concerning the churns they ask for. For years we chased new "patent churns" up Broadway, down Wall-street, and elsewhere, with about equal satisfaction, or rather want of it, in every case. We will say this much, however, that experience, observation, and scientific principles, have led us to the settled conclusion that no churn will make the first quality of butter which brings the butter in less than 15 or 20 minutes under the most favorable circumstances. Hence we now spend no time in running after any "three minute churn." When



such a thing is practicable, we promise to set forth, with pen and graver, any churn that will do the work.

**Agency for Seeds.**—M. M. Ferguson, Williamson Co., Texas, and others. While we cheerfully endeavor to do what we can for the introduction and dissemination of valuable new seeds without charge, we can not think of entering upon the sale of seeds as a business as proposed. We have not the time; neither do we think an agricultural paper should be connected with a trade of this kind or any other. An agricultural paper should be entirely independent of all individual interests in its teachings and recommendations. This we are endeavoring to carry out, and therefore must decline the various tempting offers of good commissions which are so frequently opened to us.

**Hydraulic Cement Pipes.**—T. Stowell, N. Y. Water pipes made of cement (water lime) answer a very good purpose if laid below the reach of frost; otherwise they are soon cracked and rendered worthless.

**Cooking Ranges.**—J. W., York Co., Pa. These are usually constructed for burning coal only. They are convenient but not very economical of fuel, unless considerable cooking is done. They are especially adapted for hotels, large boarding houses, etc., though they are introduced into many private houses, because of their convenience, and their occupying less room than stoves. They also facilitate the heating of water for distribution in pipes over the house. Baking is done very well by them.

**Substitute for Peat or Sawdust.**—L. D. Jared, Ill. Almost any waste or refuse vegetable matter may be used as an absorbent in the barn-yard, when peat or swamp muck can not be procured. Straw, if you have enough of it, is very valuable. It would hardly pay to cut it up for this purpose.

**Even in the Moon!**—The Editor of the *Planter and Mechanic*, published at Jackson, Miss., in his March number says: "The *American Agriculturist*, published by O. Judd, in New-York, is one of the best papers we see. Many complain of northern papers not suiting the south. As to mere detail we would admit, but when we regard the drawing out thought, giving food to the mind, we beg to dissent. We want such papers, and those who agree with us, will find the *American Agriculturist* a rich treat. . . . The paper shows *MIND*, and *ENERGY*, and *LABOR*, and if it were published in the Moon we should prize it!" We thank our worthy cotemporary for this kind and hearty expression of appreciation and good will. The principles of soil culture are essentially the same, and human nature is the same, east, west, north and south, and we hope to make the *Agriculturist* of such a character that will meet some want of every man, woman and child in the land, no matter what the location.

**Preventing effects of Drouth.**—M. A. Allen, Warren Co., N. Y. The best prevention is deep working of the ground with subsoil plow or spade, so that the roots can go down into a prepared soil far enough to always find moisture, however dry and parched the surface may be.

**Artificial Honey.**—F. Phillips, Crawford Co., Pa., will find an article on this subject in vol. 17, p. 164, which we can not reprint. Set it down as a sure thing, however, that bees alone can make good honey.

**Pumpkin Flour.**—W. T. W., Queens Co., N. Y. This is made of either common or Bermuda pumpkins, cooked and evaporated until quite dry. It is then ground into a meal or flour, and after further drying put up in tin cans or boxes.

**Tail Pork Raising.**—E. B. Woodward, Ocean Co., N. J., gives us the following weights of hogs, raised in the township of Plumstead. On one farm of 165 acres 41 hogs were slaughtered, averaging 532 lbs. each. Another farm of 150 acres raised 30 hogs, averaging 537½ lbs., and 56 pigs, each 212½ lbs. On another farm of 160 acres there were raised 28 hogs of 537 lbs. each, and to finish the list, a resident of that town raised one porker weighing 1045 lbs.

**Corn Cobs for Manure.**—Wm. McCullough, Shelby Co., O., and several others. We have delayed an answer to this question, because we have not had experience enough to instruct others. Our opinion is, that corn cobs, like all other organic matters, are valuable for incorporating with the soil. They are valuable only in proportion to their weight, of course. We think the best disposal of them is, to plow them into heavy soils, which they will help to lighten; or to place them around fruit trees as a mulch. If burned, their large amount of ashes would be usefully applied to cold, wet, sour land.

**To kill Bee Moths.**—N. P. Hedges writes that vegetable acids of any kind, as sweetened vinegar, mashed currants or cherries, or any similar substance, will destroy this pest. He says it should be put on shallow plates or

pans near the hives, where the moth will eat freely of it, and die in consequence. They will drown in open vessels containing sweetened liquids to attract them, but we hardly think they will eat enough to poison themselves.

**Clearing Trees from Lice, Moss, etc.**—C. Smith, Westchester Co., recommends to take a piece of loose rope, wind it once around the tree or limb, and then holding one end in each hand, draw it back and forth rapidly. This will do for the main trunk and crotches.

**When to sow Turnips.**—J. Pierce, Armstrong Co., Pa. Ashcroft's Swedish and Long White French may be sown from the latter part of June till the middle of July, or even till the first of August, though we prefer the season first named.

**Ayreshires and Herefords.**—O. H. Whitney, Oswego Co., N. Y. Each of these breeds has its superior points. Perhaps the Ayreshires excel for the dairy, and the Herefords for fattening. Very full descriptions of these and other breeds may be found in a series of articles extending through several numbers of the last vol. (XVII.) of the *Agriculturist*.

**King of Tompkins Co. Apple.**—L. F. Pierce, Des Moines Co., Iowa. This fruit is described as a vigorous grower and good bearer. Fruit large, skin yellowish shaded with red, flesh coarse, juicy, and tender, with an agreeable flavor. It was placed by the American Pomological Society on the list of fruits which promise well. Experiments alone can decide whether this variety will prove specially valuable in any particular location, distant from the place of its origin.

**Love of Flowers.**—E. Dickinson, Mass., in an article for which we have not room, rightly urges parents to cultivate the love of flowers in their children as a means of refinement.

#### NEW BOOKS.

**SARGENT'S EDITION OF DOWNING'S LANDSCAPE GARDENING.** A. O. Moore & Co., Publishers. New-York. 1859.

We have already alluded to the publication of this book, but its importance will justify another notice. It is now eighteen years since the issue of the original work by Mr. Downing, and in that time considerable advance has been made in the knowledge and practice of the art of which it treats. Of course, the general principles remain essentially the same; but some progress has been made in their application. Mr. Sargent's supplement, in this edition, exhibits that progress, and contains the latest and fullest information.

The author commences with some general remarks on landscape gardening, and condenses into a few pages much useful matter. His second chapter is devoted to an exhibition of two common modes of making a country-place, viz.: one by planting on open ground, and the other by hewing one out of a wooded site with the axe, a little planting being added by way of finishing strokes. The residence of Mr. Hunnewell, near Boston, is described as illustrating the first method, and the author's house on the Hudson, the other. In the remarks touching the first, and in the engravings depicting it, we detect what is also apparent in other quarters, a disposition to revive somewhat the old, artificial style of gardening, in which trees and shrubs are cut into all manner of fanciful shapes. In the chapter on the newer deciduous trees and shrubs, the reader will find much to interest him. It is truly surprising to observe what a wealth of materials the ornamental planter now has to draw upon. He ought to possess corresponding skill in using them.

The fourth chapter, occupied with the subject of planting and acclimating tender trees, will arrest the attention both of practical men and of vegetable physiologists. We question whether all readers will agree with the writer here. The latter part of this chapter, filled with descriptions of the newer evergreens, is perhaps the grand feature of the supplement. It is evidently the favorite theme of the writer. Mr. Sargent has devoted his ample means and cultivated taste for many years to the testing of newly discovered trees from almost every part of the world. Japan, China, the Bhotan and Altai mountains, the Crimea, the heights of Lebanon, and the Alps, the Isle of Corsica, Norway, Sweden, England, and Ireland, California, Oregon, Baffin's Bay, Florida, and indeed almost every country, whose vegetation could reasonably be expected to endure the climate of our Middle and Northern States, have furnished some specimens of trees for a trial of their hardihood on the shores of the Hudson. The results thus far reached, are reported in the book before us. In addition to descriptive remarks upon trees, there is given a Tabular View, which exhibits their relative hardiness in different sections of the country. This we consider one of the most useful and interesting features of the work.

The concluding chapters of Historical Notices show the great progress made during the past fifteen years, in the

construction of fine country seats, rural cemeteries, and public and private parks.

Thus much for the labors of the editor; of which, indeed, much more might well be said. We should, however, do but imperfect justice to the work as a whole, did we fail to notice also the labors of the publisher in its production. Among the new and superb pictorial embellishments, we see that at least fourteen of them were drawn by the skillful pencil of A. O. Moore, Esq. In this and other ways he has bestowed many months' labor, and has expended largely of his private means, in order to bring the work out in the best possible manner. We learn, also, that he has pledged a generous share of the profits of this edition to the widow of the lamented Downing. Thus, whether we consider the merits of the original work, or the supplement, or the labors of the publisher, it is obvious that this book is worthy of public favor and an extensive circulation.

**NEW AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA, VOLS. IV. AND V.**—We have already spoken of this magnificent work as "A Whole Library in one Work," and we can hardly use any stronger terms. We have before us and have examined the IVth and Vth volumes, which are now issued. They each contain 770 pages. Vol. 4th extends in the alphabet from BRO. to CHA, and contains 1379 different subjects treated of, in articles averaging half a page each. Vol. 5th extends from CHA. to COU., and contains 2059 articles, averaging over one-third page each. The space devoted to the different topics varies of course with their relative importance. Every person, place, or thing named in History, Biography, Geography, Science, Art, Agriculture, etc., is treated of pretty fully, and, as we remarked in a former notice, not one person in a thousand will care to learn more on any subject, than will be found in this work. The volumes, neatly bound, are furnished at \$3 each, or \$45 for the whole work. As the first five volumes go only part way through the letter C, it would hardly seem possible to bring the entire work within 15 volumes. But should it not, this will be to the advantage of the purchaser, as the publishers engage to furnish any extra volumes to subscribers without additional charge. D. APPLETON & Co., Publishers, 346 & 348 Broadway, New-York.

**THE AMERICAN HOME GARDEN,** By Alexander Watson. We have had time for only a cursory glance at this work, and can not speak fully as to its merits. It appears to have been carefully written, and to contain much useful information relating to every department of the home garden including vegetables, fruits and flowers. The author writes from a practical experience of many years. Harper & Brothers, Publishers. Price \$1 50.

**THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.**—We heartily commend this magazine for uniform literary excellence of high order, the freshness and brilliancy of its articles are unequalled by any similar publication in this country. We are glad to know that it is enjoying the success it deserves. There has been at times a little outcropping of skepticism in some of its articles, but latterly there has been an improvement in this respect. We always read the Professor at the Breakfast table, even if we have time for no other part of its contents and should consider this alone worth the cost of the Magazine, \$3 per year. Published by Phillips, Sampson & Co., Boston.

**THE BIBLE PRINTED AS IT SHOULD BE.**—In the Bible as usually printed, great injury is done to the sense by the arbitrary arrangement into chapters and verses without regard to the proper connection. It was not so written originally, and there is no sacredness in these divisions. The chapter divisions were not made until the 13th century and the verse divisions, not until the middle of the 16th century, when it was done for convenience of reference in making up a concordance. The better arrangement is to divide it into paragraphs according to the sentiments, with appropriate headings, quotation marks, etc., just as any other book is printed. We have for years used such an edition with decided pleasure and advantage, the words and language precisely the same as in the common edition, and the chapters and verses simply indicated by figures along the right and left margin. The only objection to our copy (printed by the American and Foreign Bible Society) is the smallness of the type. We have just received from Collins & Brother, Publishers, New-York, a copy of the New Testament, arranged in paragraphs, which is a desirable edition especially on account of the larger type. The chapters and verses beginning each page are indicated at the head of the page. Quotation marks "" are used whenever the sense demands it. We are only sorry that the usual chapter and verse divisions are not indicated by side figures. But even with this defect, we consider this far preferable to the common edition for general reading.

**OUR MUSICAL FRIEND.**—A weekly periodical which usually gives each week three or four pieces of popular music, and generally of very good character, so far. This is an excellent idea, as it brings a better class of music within the reach of a large class unable to pay the sheet



price. It is sold for 10 cents a copy, or furnished to subscribers at \$5 per year. Published by Seymour & Co. New-York.

**RECORD'S ROMAN HISTORY.**—The story of the Roman Empire told without being encumbered with unimportant details, and in a style calculated to interest the young, and create a taste for more on the same subject, and develop a taste for instructive reading. In the edition before us the publishers use too much paper for the printed matter (not a common failing) which renders the book rather bulky. A. S. Barnes & Co. New-York.

**WRECKS AND RESQUES.** published by the American Female Guardian Society, we have not had time to examine, but our better half has read it, and says it contains a very interesting series of truthful narratives of various cases that have come under the care of members of the Society, who are constant in their efforts to save the lost. The profits on this book go to aid in their charities. For price, etc., see advertisement in March *Agriculturist*.

**HOME WHISPERS.**—It would benefit many a thoughtless husband and wife to listen to these whispers of experience and counsel, enforced by the observation of the writer. Many lessons in the art of making home happy are taught plainly yet gracefully. Published by the American Female Guardian Society, 29 East 29th-st., N. Y.

**BERTHAM NOEL,** by E. J. May. This is a story for youth, rather lively in style, and intended to teach the value of self control strengthened by religion. D. Appleton & Co., N. Y.

## STANDING PREMIUMS

(for obtaining subscribers to the *American Agriculturist*.)

- No. IV**—for 15 subscribers at 80c. each, an extra copy, worth.....\$1.  
**No. V**—for 25 subscribers at 80c. each (new) Vols. 16 & 17, worth.....\$2.  
**No. VI**—for 30 subscribers at 80c. each (new) Silver Case Microscope, worth.....\$4.  
**No. VII**—for 40 subscribers at 80c. each (new) Webster's Dictionary worth.....\$6.  
**No. IX**—for 144 subscribers at 80c. each (new) Sewing Machine worth.....\$50.  
 do. —for 100 subscribers at \$1 each (new) Sewing Machine worth.....\$50.  
**No. XII**—for 130 subscribers at 80c. each (new) Encyclopedia worth.....\$45.  
 do. —for 100 subscribers at \$1 each (new) Encyclopedia worth.....\$45.

Note.—The above premiums are the same as described in the first 5 numbers of the present volume. All the new names obtained within the year will be counted.

## Market Review, Weather Notes, &c.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST OFFICE,  
New York, Friday Evening, April 22, 1859.

The receipts of Breadstuffs, since our last, have increased, while the demand for the principal kinds has fallen off considerably. The home traders have been the principal buyers. There has not been much inquiry from shippers. Speculators have manifested less disposition to purchase. An erroneous statement of the stock of Flour on hand, published on the 1st inst., has tended to check business. An effort was immediately made by dealers to ascertain the amount really here, and we were furnished with a copy of the names of the holders and the total quantity on hand. The list embraced seventy firms, whose stock, as reported by each firm, amounted in the aggregate to 465,774 barrels, including all the State, Western, Southern, and Canadian Wheat Flour in first hands, and in the hands of speculators, as well as of the principal jobbers, and that Flour upon which advances had been made. Yet, the erroneous statement (making out a stock of over 1,300,000 bbls.), has continued to exercise a depressive influence on the market, and prices, despite the exertions of holders to sustain them, have declined, closing heavily and languidly. Some reports from Liverpool, of purchases of Wheat there, for shipment to Philadelphia, have contributed though but slightly, to weaken the market, and to diminish the value of Wheat and Wheat Flour here. A Philadelphia paper, refers to the receipt of advices by the last steamer from England of shipments of Wheat to Philadelphia. "A lot of eight or nine thousand bushels, on its way from Liverpool, is now offered for sale by samples, and will probably pay a good freight." Another Philadelphia paper, a few weeks ago, stated that the Wheat ordered from Liverpool for Philadelphia was being imported for seed by some enterprising members of the Corn Exchange Association of that city, and was to be sold in suitable lots to the farmers of Pennsylvania. The cost of such lots, landed in Philadelphia, will be equivalent to \$1.80 per bushel. The movements in Cotton have been less extensive, and prices have favored buyers. Available supply here, 88,797 bales, against 62,710 last year. Receipts at all shipping ports to

latest dates this year, 3,371,355 bales, against 2,592,012 bales to same time last year. Total United States Exports so far this year 2,160,460 bales, against 1,714,913 bales at same date last year. Total stock on hand, on ship-board and in port, 728,548 bales; last year, 697,952. Stock in interior towns 129,813 bales; last year, 94,461 bales. Provisions have been quite freely offered, and prices of the principal kinds, especially of hog products, have declined. The demand has been good at our revised quotations. Considerable Pork has been sold, for future delivery. Hay has been in fair request at uniform rates. Hemp and Hops have been quiet. Seeds have been moderately inquired for. Clover is lower. Timothy is rather higher. Rice has been pretty freely dealt in at, however, reduced figures. Tobacco has been less active, yet firm. Wool has also attracted less attention, though prices have not varied materially. Naval stores have been more sought after. Other branches of the Produce Trade have exhibited no very remarkable changes.

**RECEIPTS.** Flour. Wheat. Corn. Rye. Barley Oats  
 26 bus. days this mon., 137,902 30,511 248,290 14,300 72,500 84,200  
 26 bus. days last mon., 101,078 12,173 176,734 54,659 40,200

**SALES.** Flour. Wheat. Corn. Rye. Barley.  
 26 business days this mon., 281,600 279,150 400,500 68,000 302,800  
 26 business days last month, 428,500 537,150 545,800 8,630 84,300

**EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS FROM N. Y., FROM JAN. 1ST, TO APRIL 19.**

	1858.	1859.
Wheat Flour, bbls.....	368,582	164,438
Rye Flour, bbls.....	1,903	2,330
Corn Meal, bbls.....	19,284	24,182
Wheat, bush.....	349,934	18,916
Corn, bush.....	1,062,627	57,952

## CURRENT WHOLESALE PRICES.

	March 23.	April 22.
Flour—Superf to Extra State	\$3 50	@ 6 80 \$5 15 @ 6 40
Common to Fancy Western	5 55	@ 6 10 5 15 @ 5 85
Extra Western	6 50	@ 6 75 6 06 @ 7 00
Fancy to Extra Genesee	6 80	@ 8 00 7 70 @ 8 00
Mixed to Extra Southern	6 25	@ 8 75 6 03 @ 8 75
Rye Flour—Fine and Super	3 45	@ 4 25 3 63 @ 4 45
CORN MEAL	5 75	@ 4 40 3 90 @ 4 35
Wheat—Canada White	None offering.	1 50 @ 1 70
Western White	1 50	@ 1 80 1 50 @ 1 80
Southern White	1 45	@ 1 80 1 45 @ 1 75
All kinds of Red	1 00	@ 1 35 83 @ 1 50
CORN—Yellow	88	@ 90 85 @ 88
White	88	@ 90 85 @ 88
Mixed	88	@ 90 83 @ 85
OATS—Western	60	@ 62 57 @ 59
State	56	@ 58 52 @ 55
Southern	50	@ 51 46 @ 52
RYE	68	@ 75 65 @ 68
BARLEY	65	@ 85 60 @ 84
White Beans	1 20	@ 1 30 1 10 @ 1 15
HAY, in bales, per 100 lbs.	12 50	@ 12 50 12 50 @ 12 50
COTTON—Midlands, per lb.	3 25	@ 4 50 3 00 @ 4 50
RICE, per 100 lbs.	10	@ 18 8 @ 15
Hops, crop of 1858 per lb.	17 75	@ 18 40 17 00 @ 17 25
PORK—Mess. per bbl.	13 10	@ 13 20 11 50 @ 12 50
Prime, per bbl.	9 50	@ 11 50 9 25 @ 11 25
BEEF—Request Mess.	8 50	@ 9 62 7 75 @ 9 00
Country mess.	7	@ 8 75 @ 8 30
Hogs, Dressed corn, per lb.	11 1/2	@ 12 11 @ 11 1/2
Lard, in bbls. per lb.	10	@ 17 9 @ 15
BUTTER—Western, per lb.	13	@ 26 14 @ 28
State, per lb.	5	@ 11 7 @ 10
CHEESE, per lb.	17 1/2	@ 19 13 1/2 @ 14 1/2
EGGS—Fresh, per dozen	42	@ 52 42 @ 52
FEATHERS, Live Geese per lb.	2 10	@ 11 7 1/2 @ 9
SEED—Clover, per lb.	2 10	@ 2 75 2 25 @ 2 75
Timothy, per bushel	6	@ 8 3 1/2 @ 7 1/2
STEAR, Brown per lb.	33	@ 40 38 @ 40
MOLASSES, New-Orleans, pr gal	10 1/2	@ 12 10 1/2 @ 12 1/2
COFFEE, Rio, per lb.	5 1/2	@ 13 5 1/2 @ 13
TOBACCO—Kentucky, &c. pr lb	45	@ 65 42 1/2 @ 63
Seed Leaf, per lb.	34	@ 55 33 @ 55
Wool—Domestic fleece, per lb.	40	@ 50 30 @ 50
Domestic, pulled, per lb.	11	@ 14 13 @ 15
HEMP—Undr'd Amer'n pr ton	11	@ 14 13 @ 15
Dressed American, per ton	11	@ 14 13 @ 15
TALLOW, per lb.	11	@ 14 13 @ 15
OIL, Castor, per ton	34 00	@ 33 00 31 00 @ 32 00
POTATOES—Peach Blow, pr bbl	1 75	@ 2 00 1 75 @ 2 00
Mercers, per bbl.	1 75	@ 1 87 1 75 @ 1 87
TURNIPS—Rutabagas, per bbl.	62	@ 75 1 00 @ 1 00
ONIONS, per bbl.	3 00	@ 3 50 3 00 @ 3 50
APPLES—Prime, per bushel	4 00	@ 5 00 3 50 @ 5 00
Dried, per lb.	9	@ 10 7 1/2 @ 9
Dried Peaches—pr lb., South'n	11	@ 14 13 @ 15
POULTRY—Fowls, per lb.	14	@ 18 14 @ 18
Ducks, per lb.	13	@ 15 13 @ 15
Turkeys, per lb.	8	@ 10 12 @ 11
Geese, per lb.	8	@ 10 12 @ 11

**N. Y. Live Stock Markets.**—THE CATTLE MARKETS have been scantily supplied during the past month, and prices have advanced 1/2c. per lb. on the estimated dressed weights since our last report. For the past four weeks ending April 20, the receipts amounted to 12,000, or an average of about 3,000 per week. Prices now range at 12 1/2c. to 13c. for Premium grades; 11 1/2c. to 12c. for good qualities; 10c. to 10 1/2c. for Medium animals; and 9c. to 9 1/2c. for poor grades; with a general average of 10 1/2c. for all sales. The indications are that cattle will not be plenty before the grass fed animals begin to arrive in June.

**VEAL CALVES** are very abundant just now. For the past four weeks 4,186 have been received at the regular markets besides large numbers sold from the river boats. Prices were, April 20th: 6c. for Prime calves; 4 1/2c. to 5c. for fair ones, and 3 1/2c. to 4c. per lb. live weight for light thin calves.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS.**—Receipts of live sheep have been very light, amounting to only 16,434 for the past four weeks. They are kept back on account of the season of increase and the approaching shearing time. Good sheep now command 7c. to 7 1/2c. per lb. live weight. Ordinary animals are worth 5 1/2c. to 6c. Demand rather light.

**Hogs.**—Receipts for the four weeks just ended amount to 21,150. The supply is fully equal to the demand, gradually diminishing with the warm weather. Heavy Corn fed hogs are worth 6c. to 6 1/2c. and light ones 5 1/2c. to 6c. gross weight, with an inactive market.

**The Weather.** for a month past has been cool and wet, though rather more Spring like during the last week. The early prospects of March received a check, but are gradually recovering. The grain and fruit prospects are upon the whole, favorable, although the freezing weather of the 5th and 6th did considerable injury at the South where early fruits were in bloom. OUR DAILY NOTES condensed, read: March 24, rain P. M., and during next day: 26, 27, 28, mostly fine clear weather; 29, rainy day; 30, 31, clear and fine. April 1, warm, with high winds; 2, fine, rain at night; 3, rain and fog; 4, clear and pleasant; 5, 6, cold and windy, mercury 31°, ice formed at night, and fruit trees in bloom at the south were doubtless injured; 7, clear and mild; 8 cloudy with light rain; 9, clear; 10 cloudy, rain at night; 11, N. E. rain storm; 12 clear, rainy night and most of 13th and 14th. 15 to 21, mostly clear and fine, moderately warm and growing weather, which farmers are improving; 22, moderate rain; 23, very rainy, as we go to press in the morning.

The circulation of the *Agriculturist* to regular subscribers, is much larger than that of any other Agricultural or Horticultural Journal in the world.

## Advertisements.

Advertisements to be sure of insertion must be received at latest by the 15th of the preceding month.

**TERMS.**—(Invariably cash before insertion):

FOR THE ENGLISH EDITION ONLY.

Twenty-five cents per line of space for each insertion. About 9 words make a line, if undisplayed. One whole column (145 lines) or more, \$30 per column. Business Notices Fifty cents per line.

FOR THE GERMAN EDITION ONLY.

Ten cents per line of space for each insertion. One whole column, (130 lines), or more, \$11 per column. Business Notices twenty cents per line.

FOR BOTH EDITIONS—ENGLISH AND GERMAN.

Thirty-one cents per line: \$38 per column. Business Notices Sixty-five cents per line.

## EVERGREEN TREES AND SHRUBS FOR THE Lawn and The Garden.

Though there is still ample time for planting Deciduous Trees and Shrubs, yet this is peculiarly the month for putting out Evergreens.

**PARSONS & CO.,**  
SHOW TO VISITORS TO THEIR GROUNDS AT  
FLUSHING, LONG-ISLAND,

Trees of fine form and large size for planting singly, as well as those of smaller size for grouping and massing.

Among their best sorts are:

Norway Spruce,	Weymouth Pine,
White Spruce,	Bho an Pine,
Hemlock Spruce,	Stone Pine,
Himalaya Spruce,	European Silver Fir,
High Juniper,	Siberian Silver Fir,
Chinese Juniper,	Balsam Fir,
Swedish Juniper,	Siberian Arbor Vitae,
Heathleaved Juniper,	Golden Arbor Vitae,
Atlas Cedar,	American Arbor Vitae,
Cypripedium,	Tree Box,

Rhododendrons, &c., &c., &c. While each of the sorts just named has its peculiar charm, and is indispensable to a choice collection yet for general planting, none are so satisfactory as the Norway Spruce, the fir, the larch, and the Rhododendron among the smaller growing varieties.

For lists in detail see their Catalogue which can be obtained by mail or at 179 Broadway, or 189 Water-st., New-York.

## BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY HOME, NEAR NEW-YORK CITY,

FOR SALE LOW,

AND

VERY LITTLE CASH REQUIRED,

MOST OF THE PURCHASE MONEY CAN REMAIN FOR A TERM OF YEARS.

The late Homestead of Rev. Dr. Strong, S. T. D., (who is now in charge of Troy University) is located in the pleasant, retired village of Flushing, twelve miles East of New-York City. No other place near the metropolis is so conveniently accessible, at almost all hours of the day, both by steamboat and railroad—the time by railroad being less than one hour, while a ride to Flushing in the spacious cars of boat is far more pleasant than a passage on any of the public conveyances to the upper part, or even the centre of New-York City. Flushing is an exceedingly pleasant Country Town abounding in Nurseries, Green-houses, Public or Commercial Gardens, &c., &c., while the Country bank, for many miles, is dotted over with the country seats of numerous retired as well as active business men. (So well pleased have most of the dwellers in this suburb of New-York City been with their homes that little or no ad has ever been made to bring it into no ice by advertisements or newspaper notices. Very few persons who have come to Flushing have sold out to go elsewhere, except on imperative business calls.) Flushing is scarcely surpassed for its advantages of churches,



good schools—both public and private, etc., while its main business being confined chiefly to Trees and Plants, it is free from the usual commercial turmoil of manufacturing and trading towns.

The dwelling above referred to, now for sale, was bought a few years since by Dr. Strong, as a permanent home, after a thorough examination of all the localities near New-York, and his transfer to the Troy University is the only reason for its now being offered for sale.

The LOCATION of the dwelling is elevated, having a fine outlook upon the bay and adjoining landscape.

The GROUNDS, consisting of near one and a half acres, were formerly part of a public nursery, and are therefore in the highest state of cultivation and improvement. They are laid out in the most tasteful manner, with gravel walks, flowering borders, &c. The trees and plants are of the choicest variety, and are now full grown. There are a great number of grape vines, beds of strawberries, with the New-Rochelle blackberry, currants, and other kinds of small fruits, while among the large ones are some ten very choice cherry trees. (Black Tartarian, Black Eagle, Amber, Mayduke, &c.) with numerous pear trees. (Bartlett, &c.) apples, &c. &c. Several of the Ornamental trees are so fine that the nurserymen in the vicinity frequently bring their customers to see them as choice specimens.

The HOUSE is in modern style, built throughout in the most substantial manner, and is in complete order. The main part of the building is about 50 by 40 feet, two stories high, with large, commodious wings on each side. The basement and cellar rooms are nearly above ground, and always dry. The rooms in both the first and second stories are a high, with well finished and painted. There are numerous closets, pantries, and similar conveniences. There is an excellent well of water, and a large cistern at the door. The front walk is flagged and curbed, and lighted with gas.

Price—(if called for soon) only \$12,000—of which \$9,000 or \$10,000 may remain on interest for a term of years, if desired.

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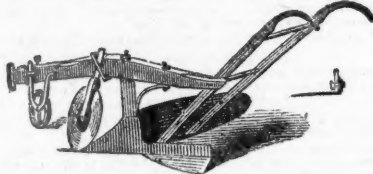
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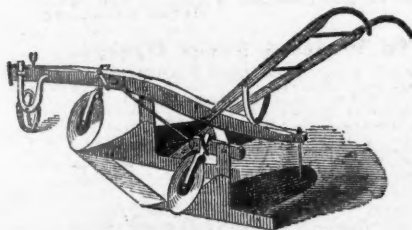
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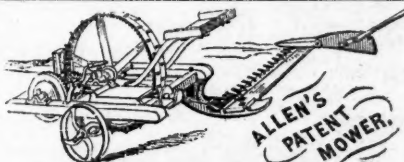


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By the subscriber, who first introduced this excellent variety to public notice, and gave it its name. The following testimonials express but the general sentiment of all who have tested the new squash, which has just received the award of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society as the best squash exhibited during the season.  
"The richest squash I have ever tasted." (Hon. Marshall P. Wilder.) "Nothing could be better. It is a very important acquisition to the vegetable garden." (Hon. Edward Everett.) "They excel in flavor and firmness of the flesh any squash we have ever tasted." (New-England Farmer.) "They are meaty as mashed potatoes, sweeter than sweet potatoes or boiled chestnuts, a good deal like the latter, but better than either." (The Homestead.)  
SEED—For a package with full directions for cultivation, 25c.  
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of every description and of the latest improvements, including several new patterns of STEEL and CAST IRON PLOWS, also Subsoil, Side Hill, Double Mould, and Plows for all kinds of work Harrows, Cultivators, Seed Drills, Carriage Wagons, Wheel Barrows, Garden and Field Rollers, Garden Engines, Pumps, Garden Tools of every variety.  
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Respectfully invites the attention of FARMERS, GARDENERS, and all those in want of seeds to his unsurpassed collection of NEW CHOP FIRST QUALITY GRASS, VEGETABLE, HERB AND FLOWER SEEDS, including all the good old varieties and several that are new and worthy of general cultivation.  
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### GARDEN, FIELD, FRUIT, AND FLOWER SEEDS.

The subscriber has now in store, of the growth of 1858, a full assortment of Vegetable, Field, Fruit, Herb, and Flower Seeds, of the best qualities, for sale wholesale and retail. Among which will be found:  
CORN—Imperial Sweet, Constantinople, Stowell's Evergreen, Darline's Early Sweet, Rhode Island Premium, King Philip, Early Dutton, Long Yellow, Long White, Pop, etc.  
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Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Vines, &c. Wishing to clear off a piece of ground, I offer the stock on it at very low prices, in quantities. Priced catalogues of the same sent on application.  
Nurseryman and Dealer in all kinds of Trees, Plants, &c.  
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Refers to the Editor American Agriculturist.  
R. H. Haydock, Cashier Market Bank, New-York.

**REMOVAL.—SHEPPARD'S Forwarding**  
and Commission Horticultural Nursery and Seed Agency, removed to 22 Fulton-st., New-York, (formerly 129 Front-st.) where the subscriber will continue to give every attention to all the wants of Nurserymen, Seedsmen, &c., with promptness and dispatch. Respectfully, WM. P. SHEPPARD, box 2972, P. O.

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Lawson or New Rochelle, }  
PRICES REDUCED.**  
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One Thousand Plants.....\$50 Fifty Plants.....\$6  
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WARRANTED GENUINE.  
Also pamphlet on ORIGIN, HISTORY, characteristics, and culture of the same.  
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I can supply, after 1st April next, a quantity of these highly valuable, well approved, thoroughly hardy plants, which I have had in successful bearing for the past ten years. Price \$1 per dozen; \$6 per hundred; \$50 per thousand. Orders, with money enclosed, addressed to the undersigned, Black Rock, N. Y., will meet immediate attention. They can be sent by express, or by conveyance to all parts of the country.  
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PATENT TRANSPORTATION PROTECTOR.  
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The price of a Protector, containing 32 square quart boxes, or 32 of the usual round boxes, is \$2.00, deliverable at 30 cents, where Mr. Wm. Marck will furnish extra small boxes at \$4.50 per gross, for round, or \$4.75 per gross for the square ones. For a Protector, containing 4 shallow peck boxes, for peaches, plums, pears, &c., the price is \$2.10.  
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We are now receiving our annual supplies of English, French and German Seeds direct from the most reliable seed growers in Europe, which in addition to our many favorite sorts of American growth, gives us an unusually large assortment, embracing in all nearly one thousand varieties, and containing every desirable novelty and standard variety—from which we have selected the following collections, which we will send by mail free of postage, to any part of the United States at the annexed prices:

COLLECTION No. 1—Contains 20 varieties of Annuals.....	\$1.00
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We also offer many other varieties of French and German Seeds by mail for enumeration of which see our Descriptive Retail Priced List of Flower and Vegetable Seeds, which will be sent to all applicants enclosing a one-cent stamp.  
Persons ordering will please state the No. of the Collection.  
N. B.—Particular attention should be given to giving the address, town, county and State in full, as it is a frequent occurrence that an essential part is wanting, and the seeds cannot be forwarded until another communication is received.  
All orders will receive prompt attention. Address  
ALLEN & McELWAIN, Springfield, Mass.

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The subscriber has now on hand a full supply of GRASS, VEGETABLE, HERB AND FLOWER SEEDS, embracing the old favorites, and including several new varieties of superior excellence. For sale (at the lowest market price,) for quality and quantity, or in packages for retail trade. Catalogues furnished on application. Also, a fine assortment of Horticultural Implements, Agricultural and Horticultural Books. All orders attended to promptly and with exactness.  
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The following collections will be found unrivaled and superior to any ever offered in this country:  
Assortments of  
12 superb varieties of Picotees.....\$3.00  
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BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND ALBANY.—  
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Returning, will leave the Steamboat landing, Albany, Daily, Sunday excepted, at 7 o'clock, P. M. Travelers will find it their interest in calling at the office of the Agents of this Company before engaging passage elsewhere.  
Freight carried at reduced rates and forwarded promptly.  
ELI HUNT, Agent,  
Office on the wharf, New-York.  
C. W. STEVENS, No. 252 Broadway, Albany.

### TO BEE-KEEPERS.—AGAIN.

In reply to P. J. Mahan's slanderous advertisement in the last number of the *Agriculturist* I will here only say, 1st, That Rev. L. L. Langstroth is not the original inventor, and hence not the rightful owner of the "Movable Comb Frame," as can and will be proven at the time needed. 2d, I have never said the "Movable Frames" would not do for our ignorant farmers. The word ignorant I have never used. The statement I pronounce false. 3d, I did not apply for a patent on Mr. L.'s Movable Frames, with a slot at the ends, &c. &c. My "Sectional Frames," patented Nov. 9th, 1858, is a very different article in construction, operation, and results, and I defy P. J. M., or any other person, to prove a like it has ever been used or known, until devised by me. 4th, I am authorized by Solon Robinson, Esq., of the N. Y. Tribune, to state publicly, that, seeing an advertisement in the *Ohio Farmer*, puffing "Mr. L.'s Movable Frames," he wrote an article for that paper, stating that the public were not obliged to pay for the privilege of using the "Movable Frames," as it was an old device, and had been described by him more than twenty years since, in the N. Y. Tribune, and a certain Agricultural paper, as the documents would show; that he received a private letter from the editor, declining to publish the article, as a friend of his had invested some \$3,000 in the patent, and it would prevent his selling rights. 5th, P. J. M. refers you to Mr. Quinby, to prove the equality of qualities of Mr. L.'s Frames. I would also take the liberty to refer you to an article written by Mr. Q., and published in the *Rural New-Yorker*, of December, 1858. Mr. Q. says, "I have used a large number of these hives (the Movable Frames), the past season, and two-thirds of the swarms, made the combs, in every possible direction, without regard to the bars, making them, so far as Movable Frames are concerned, no better than the common hive."  
N. B. I have an arrangement by means of which the bees construct the combs straight on the frames.  
For particulars, in reference to the merits of the hives, prices, &c. &c., send a 1 cent stamp and receive a circular.  
Address  
E. W. PHELPS,  
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**TO BEE-KEEPERS.**  
LANGSTROTH ON THE HIVE AND BEE.  
24 pages Elegant Engravings. Sent (post-paid) for \$1.25.  
Rich's to make and use Movable Comb Hive in Southern and Middle States except New-York, \$5. Mr. small book, 40 pages, containing valuable information, one 3 cent stamp.  
P. J. MAHAN, No. 730 Chestnut-st., Philadelphia.

**BEEES.**  
THE MYSTERIES OF BEE-KEEPING EXPLAINED.  
With an Appendix, giving directions for making in a cheap form, and using the Movable Combs of L. L. Langstroth, will be sent free of postage, for \$1.  
Address M. QUINBY,  
St. Johnsville, Montgomery Co., N. Y.



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**George A. Prince & Co.'s  
CELEBRATED MELODEONS.**  
FOR DURABILITY, NEATNESS, AND BEAUTY OF  
EXTERIOR FINISH, AND MORE THAN ALL, FOR  
Richness, Depth and Purity of Tone,  
THESE MELODEONS STAND UNRIVALED.

### THE DIVIDED SWELL.

A very desirable feature and secured to us by Letters Patent, can only be obtained in Melodeons of our own manufacture. By means of this improvement Tenor and Treble Solos or Duets may be played with the full power of the Instrument, while the Bass can be performed in a soft, subdued tone, not otherwise attainable.

Our Reeds are so constructed that the

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Thousands of them have been in use for many years that have never needed any repairs whatever, and we believe there is no Musical Instrument used that requires LESS EXPENSE to keep it in perfect order.

Our Melodeons are all cased in Rosewood, and finished as smoothly as the best Pianos. They are compactly boxed for shipping, and the cost of freight is but little to any part of the United States. They are so arranged that ANY ONE can unpack and put them up without difficulty.

We have been awarded

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For our Melodeons wherever we have exhibited them in competition with others, and we have the satisfaction of believing that

#### OUR CONSTANT AIM TO EXCEL

Is appreciated by the Musical Public.

#### LIST OF PRICES.

**IN PORTABLE CASE—**  
Four Octaves, C to C.....\$45 00  
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Five Octaves, F to F.....35 00  
Five Octaves, Double Reed, F to F.....130 00

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Five Octaves, F to F.....\$100 00  
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This last is a most MAGNIFICENT INSTRUMENT for

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It has two banks of Keys five sets of Reeds, eight Stops, one and a half Octave Foot Pedals, and one set of Reeds in Pedal Bass, independent. It has all the power and volume of an \$800 Organ, at less than half the cost, and is much less liable to get out of order.

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GENTLEMEN—The Double Reed Melodeon has arrived, and a most charming instrument it is. It has been played upon by Wallace, Dr. Hooper, Wm. Mason and a host of others, and they all pronounce it one of the most beautiful toned instruments they have ever touched.

Yours respectfully,  
JAMES F. HALL,  
New-York City.

From the Home Journal, April 3, 1858.

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From Nicholas' New-York Bank Note Reporter.

MELODEONS.—We have frequently seen and heard the Melodeons manufactured by Geo. A. Prince & Co., and for sale at their depot, No. 87 Fulton-st., and we honestly think that the instruments are the best finished and the sweetest toned of any in the market.

Prof. A. Morris, of Richmond, Va., alludes to the Prince Melodeon as follows:

"For beauty and purity of tone combining strength suitable for halls and small churches, with also the subdued quality desired for the parlor, these specimens of mechanical skill are really unequalled in the world, in this department of musical merchandise."

The following is the opinion of the Musical World:

"PARLOR ORGANS.—Messrs. George A. Prince & Co., have earned an enviable reputation for their manufacture of superior melodeons. In sweetness and purity of tone, and sensibility to the touch, these excel all others. The same qualities belong to their Parlor Organs, which are equal in volume to the Alexander Organs, while they far surpass them in pleasing effect. A fair comparison will convince any one that we need not patronize a foreign manufacturer, since our own furnish an article far superior."

#### EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED.

"Our clergyman says:—A Prince Melodeon is one of the necessities of life."

"I have used a Prince Melodeon for eight years, and it is still in perfect order."

"The 'Divided Swell' is just what was needed to make the Prince Melodeon a perfect instrument."

"I have examined various kinds, and have decided that those made by Prince & Co. are the best."

"The Organ Melodeon is received, and it affords entire satisfaction to the whole congregation."

ORDERS PROMPTLY FILLED AND EACH MELODEON WARRANTED PERFECT. Address

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"Lord Vane Tempest," 2d, 669, 5 years old, sire, Lord Vane Tempest, (10,469), dam, Nymph 2d.

Among the cows are Anna, Sunshine, Diana Gwynne, Dew-dron, (imp.) Red Rose, 5th Dalcinia.

Also, heifer and bull calves, by Marmion and Lord Vane Tempest.

We offer, also, our entire stock of Suffolk Swine, bred from our own importations, together with the Jackson importation.

We will sell the above stock at low prices.

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Also, to expel bottrands worms, loosen the hide, improve the appetite, and keep the animal in good condition. Equally valuable for horses, cattle, sheep and swine.

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NEW AND CHEAP FERTILIZER.

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It is Pumpace left after pressing the oil from the Castor Seed, and in India and England bears a high value as a Fertilizer.

It will be sold at \$12 to \$16 per ton, according to quantity, at which rate it is the cheapest

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The above fertilizers warranted pure, and sold at the lowest market price.

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## SPECIAL SEED PREMIUMS.

As a recompense for time and trouble in procuring and forwarding subscribers at this period, we offer the following SEED PREMIUMS, which will come just in season. Of course only one of the different Premiums offered will be given for the same new subscriber obtained.

**Turnip Seed Premium.**—To any person sending in a new subscriber after May 1st, we will present two ounces of very choice turnip seed, which will be enough for 20 to 50 square rods, according to the care used in sowing. The package may consist entirely of the Long White French Turnip—the best turnip we have ever known either for cooking or feeding. Or if preferred, the package may consist of one-half Long White French, and ½ ounce each of three very choice new varieties marked in the list below, Nos. 68, 69 & 70. N. B.—The package will be sent post-paid where the full subscription price (\$1 a year) is received. If the new subscribers be in clubs, or additions to former clubs, and at club prices, the recipient of this premium will need to send the 12 cents required for postage on the seed.

**PREMIUM XI.**—Any person procuring and forwarding (after April 1st) new subscribers to the *Agriculturist* for Vol. 18, and \$1 for each) may select from the list of seeds below as many packages as will go under four 3-cent postage stamps for each new name and we will send the seeds post-paid by ourselves. N. B.—If the new subscribers are taken at club rates, either as additions to old clubs, or in new clubs, the receiver of the premium will need to send the 12 cents postage to be paid on each premium package. (We only pay the postage when the full price is paid.)

It will be seen that from 4 to 30 parcels of seed may be chosen for each new name—according to the kind desired. Of the flower seeds about 5 packages of seed will go under one stamp. In addition to the premium parcel, given to the procurer of a name, the new subscriber will himself be entitled to select three to five parcels by sending prepared, pre-paid envelopes as noted above. Several of the seeds in the following list are particularly choice or rare, and on this account could not be offered in our General Distribution. We shall probably have enough to meet all the demands made for this special premium

## Field Seeds.

- 1—White Sugar Beet—Single or double packages, as desired, requiring one or two 3-cent postage stamps.
- 2—King Philip Corn—Single, double, or triple packages, as desired, requiring one, two, or three 3-cent stamps.
- 3—Stowell's Sweet Corn—Same packages as No. 1.
- 4—White Poland Oats—Same packages as No. 2.
- 5—Chinese Sugar Cane—Any subscriber may select any amount, from half an ounce up to a full pound of this, by providing for the transportation by mail, or express, or otherwise. If to go by mail, a 3-cent stamp is required for each half ounce.
- 6—Ashcroft's Swedish Turnip—Half of 3-cent stamp.
- 68—Purple-top Scotch, or Bullock Turnip—do.
- 69—Green-top Scotch, or Bullock Turnip—do.
- 70—Walter's London purple-top Sweet Turnip—do.
- 93—Hungarian Grass—One or two 3-cent stamps.
- 94—Crystal Flint or Hominy Corn—One 3-cent stamp.

## Vegetable or Garden Seeds.

- 8—Daniel O'Rourke Pea—Packages same as No. 1.
- 9—Champion of England Pea—One 3-cent stamp.
- 96—Champion of Scotland Pea—do.
- 57—Eugenie Pea—do.
- 58—Napoleon Pea—do.
- 59—King of the Marrow Pea—do.
- 60—Blue Sickle Pea—do.
- 12—Green Kohl Rabi—One-third of a 3-cent stamp.
- 15—Mammoth Cabbage Lettuce—do.
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- 17—Red Strap-Leaf Turnip—One-half of a 3-cent stamp.
- 19—Round spinach—do.
- 20—Salsafy—do.
- 22—Boston Marrow Squash—do.
- 95—Hubbard Squash—do.
- 21—Winter Cherry—One-third of a 3-cent stamp.
- 55—White Globe Onion—do.
- 72—Imported Brussels Sprouts—do.
- 73—Egg Plants, (mixed)—do.
- 74—Solid White Celery—do.
- 75—Green Curled Endive—do.
- 76—Musk Melon—do.
- 77—Water Melon—do.
- 92—Okra—do.
- 63—London Particular Long Scarlet Radish—do.
- 64—Extra Red Round Turnip Radish—do.
- 65—Walter's Large Cabbage Savoy—do.
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- 27—Extra Cockcomb.
- 28—Dwarf Rocket Larkspur.
- 29—Double Balsams, mixed.
- 31—Chinese Pink.
- 32—Portulaca, mixed.
- 36—Sweet William.
- 40—Escholtzia Californica.
- 41—Elegant Clarkia.
- 42—Foxglove.
- 47—Morning Glory, mixed.
- 49—Candy Tuft.
- 50—Schizanthus.
- 51—Phlox Drummondii.
- 78—Ageratum Mexicanum.
- 79—Germ. 16-weeks Stock.
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